

AUTOMATE RV CLUB

NEWSLETTER

Issue # 40 Winter 2012

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PRESIDENT'S COLUMN

By Neil Zinn

The Fall Rally is now history and from what I have heard, all went well. Actually, I didn't expect anything different. The club thanks the Richichis for putting this event together in addition to handling the Treasurer duties. We twisted their arms a few years ago to do this and after they agreed to do it, we were not there; we regret this. I understand reservations have been made for September of next year and the Perry family will be doing the legwork to put the event on. Thank you so much for stepping up. You have a long history with the club having served as Treasurer for several years. It seems that if there is something to be done, we have to ask a busy person.

Helen and I did not attend because we had arranged to attend the Albuquerque Balloon Festival when we attended the 2011 Good Sam Rally in Oregon. It was a great festival with something over 800 balloons being present and flying. We were most taken with the "special shapes" as they call them, the custom balloons built along thematic lines. We have great photos of flying firemen, a stagecoach, Darth Vader's head, bees, elephants, flying pigs, fanciful critters, etc. It was a photographer's dream. Spectators are allowed on the field while the balloons are laid out, inflated and launched. Apparently, the liability lawyers have had no influence on this activity yet.

We were there as part of a Good Sam Tour. Regretfully, this is the last Good Sam Tour, as they are leaving the tour field to other companies. They will be missed as they had good tours and good tour guides. There was no small amount of grumbling among the participants.

I am writing this from the Visitor Center at Bandelier National Monument, a remarkable site close by the Los Alamos National Laboratory. It is out of the way but deserving of your attention if you come this way in New Mexico. Pueblo peoples lived in rooms carved in the face of volcanic ash cliffs, a byproduct of an ancient super volcano, one of six in the world. They also built pueblo structures familiar to those of you who have visited Chaco Canyon and Mesa Verde. It is a lovely venue, interesting and informative.

We spent a day in Los Alamos city, one of America's secret cities during the War and home to the Manhattan Project headed up by General Groves and Robert Oppenheimer. It is one thing to read about it but being there brings it to life. It was especially interesting after visiting the national atomic/nuclear museum in Albuquerque. Like Lawrence Livermore, Los Alamos continues as an important research facility, important to our national security. There are some 11,000 workers on site. Again, it is out of the way but well worth seeing if you are a history buff.

I did learn one lesson on this trip, as always. Watch out for your power plug when you are backing up to hitch up. Don't run over the plug; stopping on top of it does bad things. I was able to get it back to some semblance of round and get it into the receptacle but nearly had to replace it.

Finally, here is a reminder to you to monitor your electrical power when parked. We hit some bad park power in Holbrook, AZ that could have done us in early on. We recommend the somewhat costly but valuable "Good Governor" monitor. Keep it plugged in and test your pedestal power before plugging in.

It is almost time to winterize; we look forward to seeing you in the Spring on the road.

Fall Rally 2012

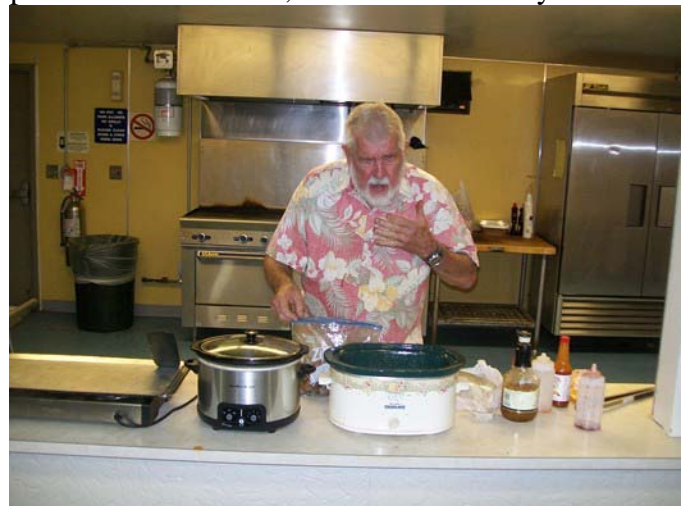
Wagon Masters Jerry & Pam Richichi could not have ordered up any better weather than we had at Sonora for the Fall Rally, and many of the 27 rigs registered showed up early in the week to take advantage of it. It's such a beautiful location to either sit back and relax with friends or visit some of the sights around the area OR take in a few of the local wineries.



By Thursday evening everyone had checked in and were ready for the Welcoming get-together. The hall was decorated for Halloween by Pam Richichi, who skillfully crafted up "candle holders" from different shaped jars and "ghosts" from men's hankies. What a clever idea.



Pete Bryan was happy to have the excuse to use his new Costco BBQ at home to pre-cook some delicious chicken wings and pulled pork served with tortillas and sauces along with some veggie platters and of course, some wine. mmm yum.



On Friday morning we were treated to Mary Robinson's baked "cinnamon apple, croissant, french toast", another yum. (recipe to follow in Newsletter)



Friday's schedule was pretty much open so some of the members took a walk around town enjoying the little shops and, in my case, to justify the second helping of breakfast I had.

Friday afternoon, Jerry & Pam taught some of us a new version of an old card game, although, judging by all the laughter, I'm not so sure all the rules were followed by everyone.

Friday night's dinner was prepared and served by the Pickle Patch out of San Andreas. A delicious dinner of baked chicken breast with vegies, salad and bread.



During and after dinner, Greg Brown and the Music Express treated us both dinner and dancing music.

Saturday morning started with breakfast of scrambled eggs and linguica served up by Betty & John Perry and Evette & Jim Dilley. The yum continues.



The weather Saturday continued to be warm and beautiful so that people were able to sit outside and enjoy visiting with one another. By Saturday afternoon, after the game of card bingo was held in the hall, the "flash party" appeared in front of the Stewart rig with (here's a surprise) food and drinks coming from "out of nowhere".



Apparently AutoMate rallies, good food and good company go hand in hand.

Saturday evening dinner was another good meal prepared and served by Pickle Patch.



SUNSHINE REPORT

It was great to see Ida & Paul Cheek enjoying the rally, in their rig after Ida's back surgery last year. Also Leonard and Jean Mello come for the day Saturday, with Leonard walking around and looking great after his stroke. They both said how much they appreciated all the cards and well wishes from all those that sent them.

Also Yvonne Wason is getting around very well after her hip surgery, but they have their rig up for sale. She thanks everyone for the cards. Spoke to Marlene Weber today and she reports that after 2 lung cancer surgeries, Ed is doing better than expected and is getting stronger each day. He thanks everyone for all the cards and well wishes sent his way and loves the cards so much that he won't let Marlene clear them off his desk. It just goes to show how much power there is in knowing that people are thinking of you and sending well wishes your way.

Bette Perry reports that John has been in the hospital since Tue the 23rd. He was diagnosed with a cyst of the liver and is being treated and getting better and should be home by the time you get this newsletter.

I know all of these people would appreciate your cards and well wishes.

After enjoying our dinner, Jerry thanked everyone that lent a hand to help make this yet another successful rally.

It was announced that Rick and Sharon Damlos will be the wagon masters for the spring rally to be held in Lodi, April 2013.

Sunday morning, those that needed to get on home packed up for the trip while others that were able to stayed on another day.

Income & Expense Report

2012 Fall Rally

Income:

(27) Registrations	\$ 3,360.00
Extra Nights	740.00
Silent Auction	127.00
Dinner Only	30.00
Refunds/Overpayment	<u>-155.00</u>
Total	\$ 4,102.00

Expense

Fairgrounds	2,166.00
Hall Rental	450.00
Insurance	50.00
Propane/PA Chg	37.00
Thursday Welcome	153.54
Fri/Sat Breakfast	247.99
2 Catered Dinners	1,939.00
Desert 2 nights	92.43
Band	250.00
Miscellaneous	<u>40.27</u>
Total	\$ 5,426.23

Loss (\$ 1,324.23)

Note from 2012 Fall Wagon Master

I want to thank everyone who made the Fall Rally a success. The Bryans & Petersens for the Thursday night welcome, the Robinsons for Friday breakfast, the Perrys & Dilleys for Saturday breakfast, the Cheeks & Baptists for "Card Bingo", my wife Pam & the Dilleys for the dessert both nights and a special thanks to my wife for her table decorations. I hope those that played "Six Card Golf" with Pam and myself enjoyed the Friday afternoon game. Pickle Patch served two great dinners and the music by Greg Brown was very enjoyable.

This rally was the first of two experiments with a preset low rally fee. I will bring a comparison of the last two Fall Rallies so that we can see the differences and have a better understanding of how we want to proceed in the future.

It was my honor to be your Wagon Master and am pleased that Rick and Sharon Damlos have stepped forward to be your Wagon Master for spring 2013. Thanks to all of you who attended. There isn't a Rally without you or the people who volunteer to do the work. See you in the Spring. Thanks again, Jerry Richichi

Croissant French Toast Casserole

9 x 13 pan, greased

10 Costco croissants (tear or cut into pieces)

7 eggs

1 cup half & half

1 cup whole milk

cinnamon - to taste

vanilla - to taste

Let the bread dry out over night, cover with egg mixture for about 1 hour, pushing bread down so all pieces are wet. (If needed add a little more made up egg mixture to make sure all of croissants are moist) Top with choice of fruit, ie; seasoned apples or pie filling, caramel and / or nuts.

Bake @ 350 for 30 to 40 minutes, checking at 30 minutes.

Serve with warm syrup.

I multiplied this recipe 7 x's for our rally.

Make the egg mixture a day ahead so flavors can meld.

Be sure to grease the pan, I used Pam.

Mary Robinson

Information from Richard Clark

At recent rallies I have had questions about my roof and the triangular tabs on the back of my rig. The triangles are called **Air Tabs**. They create a vortex of air behind the trailer and reduce the suction effect that the flat back of the trailer creates. I also found that passing semis did not disturb me nearly as much as before I installed the tabs. I purchased and installed them myself. They are now available at www.airtab.com. I don't know the cost.

The roof was done by RV Roofing Solutions. It was done in the street in front of my house but they also have sites where they can do the work. One man did

the job, removing all vent covers and fittings from the roof and the cover from the AC leaving just the old rubber roof. All openings were reinforced with fiberglass tape and a sealing compound, then he installed 2 complete coats of the same compound, leaving the surface rough so it would not be slippery. The compound covered front, back, and side joints to allow them to give a 10 yr no leak guarantee. The job took only 2 ½ days to complete. They can be reached at 818-332-0645 or www.rvroofingsolutions.com. They also advertise in RV Journal and other magazines.

The original rubber was left on. He used fiberglass tape around every opening twice, sealing it in place with his coating. He then applied 2 coats of the stuff, which I believe is a special compound for this purpose.

Hope this is what you want.

Richard M. Clark

grouchrc@verizon.net

2013 SPRING RALLY

April 25 -28, 2013

Lodi Grape Festival Fairgrounds

It's time to mark your calendars for the upcoming AutoMate Club rally this next Spring.

First, a word of thanks to Jerry and Pam Richichi and all the volunteers that made our recent Fall rally in Sonora such a great success! It is the folks that step up and make it happen that results in the good times, good food, and camaraderie that we all enjoy at our rallies.

For the Spring Rally, starting things off on Thursday, Jim & Sharon West along with Ray & Ruth Keener will host a welcome gathering in Jackson Hall. Irv & Arleen Baptist, Jim & Evette Dilley, and John & Bette Perry will be doing a pancake breakfast on Friday morning. Friday's steak feed will be once again hosted by Ross Stewart and Don Martin along with Chuck & Sandy Creevan. The Saturday breakfast will be provided by Ed & Mary Robinson along with Elmer(Pete) & Elsie Petersen. To round out the food orgy, the Pickle Patch will be catering Saturday's dinner. Pat & Ed Everett will be providing the hall decorations. Many thanks to all of you who are volunteering for this event!! We are planning a white elephant gift exchange following Saturday's dinner, so please

remember to bring something, new or slightly used, wrapped or in a bag (one per rig).

Our annual meeting will be Saturday afternoon, and we hope everyone will attend. We hope to have some additional activities in place for your enjoyment...more on that later.

Hosts: Rick & Sharon Damlos (707)995-3908
rdamlos@mchsi.com

FALL RALLY 2013

The Fall rally for 2013 will be held at the Motherlode Fairgrounds in Sonora, CA
Sept. 12, 13, 14 & 15, 2013

Wagon masters / Hosts

Bette & John Perry and Evette & Jim Dilley

AUTOMATES FOR SALE

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. Located in Lodi at Lodi Park & Sell
Asking \$11,500.

22k Reese 5th wheel hitch, brand new, in box never been used. Asking \$450

Both located in Valley Springs, N. CA

Contact **Ken Davey** (209) 772-2827

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

1999 37' 5th WHEEL Triple Axle

3 slides, Non Smoker, air ride, Queen bed, Corner Shower, Washer Dryer Combo, Micro wave Convection oven, Gas cook top, Four door Norcold refrigerator freezer, 3 pantries, Oak table with 4 chairs, Lazy Boy hide a bed, Two swivel recliners, Corner desk, entertainment center. 2 gas furnaces, Roof A/C ducted. Rear view camera, Tri-pod Corner stabilizers, 2 Solar panels, More extras.
Rig is located in Pahrump, NV

Asking \$20,000

Call **Hud Hatch** for information, can email photo.
(623) 556-7649 or (916)708-0772

PS. We will negotiate on the price

2002 33' 5th WHEEL (& Truck)

2 Slides, Rear kitchen, Corian countertops, Oak kitchen floor, 2 heaters, 2 Fantastic Fans,, Microwave/hood combo, side by side refrigerator with ice maker. Shower skylight. Light earth tone interior in great condition. No smokers or pets.
New custom paint, Hydraulic disc brakes, air bag suspension, air hitch, 17' awning, window awnings, double insulation, independent front power leveling jacks, Roof 2 1/2 yrs old. Bicycle rack for 2 bikes (hitch style). Good Sam Extended Repair Warranty (assumable) Located at See Grins in Gilroy, CA
Asking \$29,000 They will negotiate

TRUCK 2006 Ford 350 SD

Super duty, super cab, long bed, Lariat chrome pkg, 23K miles, trailer hitch. 6.8L V-10, power adjustable pedals. Heated exterior mirrors, AM/FM/CD changer audio system, chrome tube style running boards, 5 speed tow haul transmission, heated seats, power sliding rear window, exterior mounted turn signals, limited slip rear differential, 18" wheels. 16K 5th wheel hitch plus 5th wheel tailgate, comes with original tailgate, diamond plate tool box, spray in bed liner, two-tone white & gold with matching pin stripes to match trailer. No smokers or pets. Asking \$19,900
Will sell trailer without truck, BUT not truck without trailer.

Truck is in Elk Grove, CA Photos available upon request.

Contact: Dick Larkin (916) 804-3634 or
dmlarkin@frontiernet.net

1999 32' 5th WHEEL MODEL F32J (& Truck)

2 Slides, Rear kitchen, Double Insulation Package, Roof Rack and Ladder, Spare Tire and Mount, Lend-A-Hand Rail, Built in Bi-Pod Stabilizer, 21" Range w/ Electronic Ignition, Microwave Oven, Porcelain Kitchen and Lavy Sinks, 110 Volt Ceiling Fan, Guardian Fabric Protection, Swivel Rocker, 19" Color TV, Video Control Center, Mirror Tinted Jalousie Windows, Fantastic Fans - Kitchen and Bedroom, 3 Brass Ceiling Lights, 3 Bronzed Beveled Edge Mirrors, Gas/Elect. Water Heater, Ducted A/C, non smoking
16" Mag Wheels, 17' A&E 9000 Awning, 3 - 3' A&E 9000 Window Awnings
\$15,000.00 OBO

TRUCK 2002 GMC 2500HD SL

4 Door Extended Cab, 8100L (496 CI) Engine, 5 Speed Alison Auto Tranny, ABS Brakes, Air Conditioning, Power Windows, Power Door Locks with Remote
Cruise Control, Power Steering, Tilt Wheel, AM/FM Stereo w/ CD Single Disc
Dual Power Seats, Custom Running Boards, Towing and Camper Package
Under 30,000 miles

\$17,500.00 OBO

Both in Yountville, CA

TRUCK AND TRAILER PACKAGE

\$30,000.00 OBO

Truck to be sold with trailer or after trailer is sold.

Bill and Nita Schneider

Yountville, Ca.

(707) 944-8960 (707)-227-6906 cell

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 then 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 Club members #296

\$14,900 or OBO

Louie or Anna Croce 510-797-3647 or

acroce@sbcglobal.net