

AUTOMATE RV CLUB

NEWSLETTER

Issue # 43 Fall 2013

Editor: Evette Dilley

CLUB OFFICERS

President: Neil Zinn
4310 American River Dr.
Sacramento, CA 95864-6004
corkster501@sbcglobal.net

Vice President: Ted Martin
3296 Arroyo Dr.
Fairfield, CA 94533-7206
tj-cl.martin@sbcglobal.net

Secretary: Evette Dilley
1805 Ronie Way
San Jose, CA 95124
emdilley@sbcglobal.net

Treasurer: Pam Richichi
25 Schooner Lane
Modesto, CA 95356

Newsletter: Evette Dilley
1805 Ronie Way
San Jose, CA 95124
emdilley@sbcglobal.net

WHO TO CONTACT

| | |
|---|-----------------------|
| Change of address or email | Evette Dilley |
| Payment of dues & Rally fees | Pam Richichi |
| Sunshine Committee | Laurie Wermuth |
| Newsletter | Evette Dilley |
| General Inquiries & Issues | Neil Zinn |

PRESIDENT'S COLUMN

By Neil Zinn

Since it is midsummer, I would hope that everyone is out and about in their AutoMates, if nothing else, avoiding the summer heat in favor of cooler climates. Helen and I spent a month, mostly in the state of Washington in the Kent, Port Townsend, Sequim areas. If you have not been in that area I recommend it to you. You will experience typical Washington weather with a lot of cloudy, over cast days and above all, cool. We were entranced with the Port Townsend area and Sequim, pronounced, "Squim". Sequim sits in the rain shadow of the Olympic National Forest and unlike the rain forest that gets 146 inches of rain a year, it only receives about 18 inches. It is quite a retirement area and is loaded with mountains, trees and water and a balmy weather condition. We could see ourselves pulling our rig up there for the summer and staying out of the Valley heat. I think I would prefer that to pulling south to the desert for the winter. Just my preference, I'm not much for sand.

Most of the time we stayed at Elks Lodges in the areas we traveled, at least those that have RV spaces for traveling Elks. It is quite a bargain, typically about \$15.00 per night. I know I saved enough money staying in the lodges to pay for my annual dues. They typically have water, electricity and a place to dump. It's a great perquisite and you might want to consider taking out a membership, even if you don't travel. We are all at the age where giving back should be a part of our lives and Elks are very involved with kids and veterans.

I understand that plans are afoot to get us back to the King City area for a future rally and that is a good thing. Just as a reminder, that is one of the

privileges of serving as Wagonmaster for a rally, being able to select the date and place for that event. I've had several people ask me about the plastic "donut" in the side of my rig, you know the one; it's the thing that protects the hole where you insert the crank to let down your spare tire. The factory model inevitably cracks and breaks off leaving you with an unprotected hole in the aluminum siding. If this is your problem, ask Jim Dilley about buying one of his custom models that he makes as an aftermarket product. Won't crack, won't break. He's turned out several things for me, most famously the handles that attach to the front jacks that eases the job of raising up the adjustable lower half when you are hitched up and off the blocks. He also made some heavy duty "feet" for me to replace the front jack feet that somehow distorted into a "U" shape from the weight of the front end. Helen and I plan on more summer travel although on our trip to Tucson, we decided to leave the rig home because of the expected heat. We do have a conflict that will keep us away from the Fall Rally but I know all will go well, it always does because of our members who step up to get what has to be done, done. Our best to you all and we will see you down the road.

HOW WE HOSTED A RALLY AND LIVED TO TALK ABOUT IT

By Rick & Sharon Damlos

The first thing that I would like to say is how much we enjoyed our recent job as wagon masters or rally hosts at the 2013 Spring Rally in Lodi. This was made possible by the folks who stepped forward and volunteered to provide meals, decorations, and all the other little details that make these functions work. Perhaps most of all it is the spirit of comradeship by the AutoMate members who attend these rallies that makes being hosts so rewarding. Simply put, we had fun and enjoyed the experience thoroughly.

Evette Dilley asked if I would write something for the newsletter about being first time hosts. The purpose being is to hopefully encourage members who have never done it before to give hosting a try. Sharon and I are really long time club members, but have only started coming to rallies again in the last year, and we're are so glad to be back. At the Spring 2012 business meeting we just decided to

take the plunge and volunteer for the 2013 rally...hadn't really even ever discussed being hosts before then. Well...our first reaction when we realized what we had done was "Holy crap, what have we gotten ourselves into?"

As new hosts, the first thing you realize is that you are not just cast adrift and expected to figure it out for yourselves. There are written guidelines for these events in addition to the records that previous hosts can provide to help make the job easy and even fun.

I'm not going to detail all the steps that need to be taken, except to say that the #1 most important thing to accomplish is to nail down the site for your rally. The Club usually makes a next year reservation at the time of a rally just to ensure that we have a place to go. There is tremendous competition for rally locations among RV groups, and most sites are reserved at least a year ahead. As rally hosts, you have the option of locating your rally wherever you choose, so the reservation already made is like insurance. The #2 thing is to get your volunteers lined up. We had some of our slots filled at the time we got the hosting job. Just be sure to have all your volunteers lined up at the time of the interim rally. Following the interim rally, you will receive the dreaded "grey boxes" containing all of the club stuff, which you will re-supply if necessary, and bring to your rally. (This is not a biggie) It's mostly a matter of storing them for six months, and transporting them from and to the rallies. The #3 most important thing is NOT to leave everything until the last minute. You have about six months to make all the preparations. The fairgrounds or wherever you have chosen will have their requirements as far as deposits and insurance. All you need to do is meet their deadlines, and request a check from our treasurer, Pam Richichi. Among the other things you need to do are to set up any activities you want to have at your rally. You will need to communicate with your volunteers to see if they have any special requirements, i.e., Barbeques, etc. You'll want to find out what their menus are going to be too. If you choose to cater meals, then those arrangements need to be made well ahead. Evette will ask you to write one or two promo pieces for the newsletter. Yes, there are numerous details that need to be attended to, but none of it is difficult, and assuming you get all of your ducks in a row ahead of time, it

will be breeze. (Helpful hint) Set up a calendar showing all details and deadlines. If the idea of getting up in front of a group scares you...don't worry we're all friends here, and after the first time, it's easy.

The most important thing to make our AutoMate Club successful and continue on is active participation by as many members as possible. As in so many organizations, it is a precious few who do most of the work to make things happen. **Rally hosting is vital to our continued existence.** If Sharon and I can do it, anyone can. There was a lot of personal satisfaction for us in hosting the Spring Rally, and enjoying the folks who helped put it all together. We'll host another one sometime, but meanwhile...what about you??

The Maritime Provinces by Bob Howe

We started in early summer taking an expeditious route through Denver connecting to I-90 through Chicago ending up in my wife's home town of Watertown N.Y. We spent over a week there before heading further north through such well known towns as Ogdensburg and Massena, New York and then turning east through Vermont and down the Hudson to Albany. The final 300 miles took us to Rhode Island, one of our primary destinations and my birthplace, not to mention the birthplace of other famous people. We camped at the home of old family friends, who are both retired physicians. Parked next to the horse barn, we had all the conveniences of water and power and within 1/4 mile walking distance to our friends house on Narragansett Bay.

Upon telling them of our plans to visit Newfoundland, they offered to let us use their property in Prince Edward Island. Another place added to our journey.

Next stop: Lubec, Maine - a small fishing town on the north coast where we had stayed in 1995.



Though the fishing industry has collapsed there, the town and surrounding area has all the quaint New England charm and beauty one would want. We stayed at an a typical RV park on a little peninsula jutting out on the water. A perfect location with views in all directions.

Our journey continued through New Brunswick on Canada Route 2 with a turn south to Nova Scotia. We turned north and toured the entire perimeter of Cape Breton Island (highly recommended) returning to the town of North Sydney, the ferry departure point for Newfoundland. Ferry reservations are, of course necessary. We chose the ferry which sails to Port aux Basques some 300 miles east of St Johns as the crow flies. In mid afternoon truck with Automate in tow was



swallowed up in the vehicle hold of the large vessel. Our two dogs, Abbey and Sara, a Labrador and German Shepherd remained in the coach while we proceeded to the upper decks for the sailing. It's a six hour sail across the Cabot Strait and we arrived in darkness, rolling off the ferry and proceeding north following everyone else and staying in an RV park a few miles up the road. Oddly enough this is part of the Trans Canada Highway. The next day we drove up to the town of Corner Brook on the eastern coast.



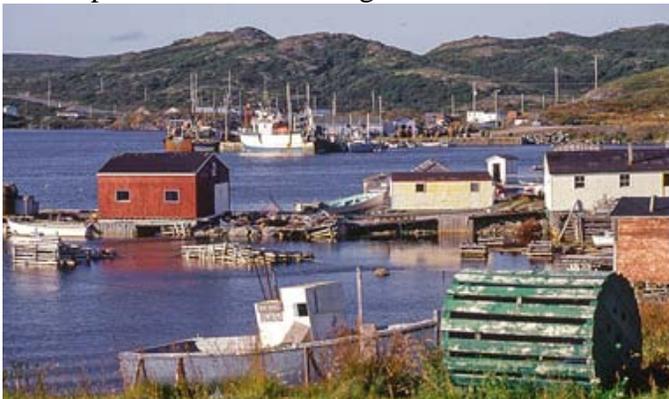
Backing in to our campsite that afternoon uncovered a problem with our pickup: it had a difficult time in reverse gear. After setting up camp we took the Ford to a local dealer for warranty service and rented a car for three days giving us a chance to see the town and surrounding area. What

impressed us more than anything were the people; they were so friendly and helpful always with a smile. Nancy and I concluded that they must take happy pills with breakfast each day.

Fishing regulations are severe in this part, so finding fresh seafood to cook was a problem. We set out one day ending up in Lark Harbor a small village where we were sure to find fresh fish. No such luck. But as we were standing on the shore near some small skiffs, a family in a boat arrived. They had been "sustenance fishing" and had a fair catch. We asked them where we could buy fish and the answer was "nowhere". They then offered us a specimen from their own catch. Money was refused. With truck repaired we continued north to Gros Morne National Park, staying at Rocky Harbor. (you can follow this trip on a Google map of Newfoundland) The next day we took a power boat ride in the fresh water lake, Western Brook Pond. Adding to the fun were a mother daughter team from Quebec, both of whom were quite entertaining.

The end of the line so to speak is at Lans aux Meadows, a World Heritage site where the Vikings had set up a community over 1000 years ago. We felt like we were at the end of the earth yet the latitude was that of Calgary, Alberta. This is definitely a must see place, but it's a loong drive.

Our return route took us back the same way with a stop at Gros Morne again before continuing south to meet our ferry. We did have time for a side trip to Rose Blanche Lighthouse and harbor



some 40 miles west of the marine terminal. This has to be one of the loneliest outposts in North America during the harsh winter. In spite of that the people as always were friendly and warm. We concluded they must have happy pills here also.

Editor's note: Sorry Bob, I couldn't get in all of your great shots in the story.

LOCATION CHANGE FOR SPRING RALLY 2014

The **location** for the Spring 2014 Rally has been changed to the **San Lorenzo Park in King City**. For those of you who have never stayed there, it is a nice park with great trees, level pull through sites and 2 nice group halls. As you drive into the park you pass by a large collection of antique farm equipment and farm museum that you can tour through. The dates are the same as before, April 24th leaving on April 27, 2014.

Bob & Barbara Fugate will have sign up sheets at the Fall Rally in Sonora or if you aren't going to be able to be at the Fall Rally and still want to help at the Spring Rally, contact Bob & Barbara Fugate or Chuck & Sandy Creevan.

STICKNBOND

By Neil Zinn

At the last national Good Sam Rally in Phoenix, I attended a lecture on RV maintenance by Gary Bunz who markets himself as the RV Doctor. Rubber roofs were the subject of part of his talk and he introduced us to a product called Sticknbond, a product of Leisure Time Marketing, 18242 Enterprise Lane, Huntington Beach, California 92648. The particular product I was most interested in comes in a roll 4" by 25'. It is marketed as a leak repair tape.

Apparently, scientists have come up with a super bonding material, called microsealant technology that this tape is coated with. In turn, it is protected by a plastic film so it won't stick together in one massive roll. I was intrigued by it; apparently it bonds better than the now famous 100 mph duct type tape. After doing some internet research, I decided to give it a try. But I had no leaks; I had replaced my rubber roof just last year. I decided to use it on top of the joints where the front and back caps attach to the rubber roof. My thought was that if I could cover the sealant that is used to stop leaks at this critical joining of the two materials and on the screw holes, I might have less long term maintenance to do with my roof.

It is relatively easy to apply; just clean the bonding surface well and after pulling the backing off of the tape, press it down so it straddles the joint. You will also need a roller to lay it down firmly as the better the contact, the more secure the bond. The hardest part of the job is when you work at the edges of the roof and take the tape down to the

drains. My work on this part was a bit less than professional but we shall see.

You might look for Gary Bunz' web site as he puts out a regular RV newsletter with many helpful hints. You can subscribe to his site as I do. I'll be interested in seeing how well this product holds up. I certainly am carrying an extra roll in my tool kit for any tears that I may put on my roof.

FALL RALLY 2013

The Fall Rally is just around the corner. Sonora in the fall is beautiful. The weather should be great for walks around town and sitting around the campfire at night. The committees have put together the makings for another great rally starting with Jean Mello who will work her decorating magic on the hall to Pete Bryan's wonderful Thursday night menu of chicken wings and pulled pork tacos with drinks and vegie platter from Richichis. Irv's famous pancakes will start off Friday and the rally hosts, the Perrys and Dilleys, will provide an Italian dinner and dessert Friday night. Sat. morning the Andersons and Petersons will serve up a great breakfast casserole and fruit. Sat. dinner will be catered by Dean's Catering, a local caterer. His menu will consist of roasted lemon chicken, red potatoes, vegies, salad and dessert.

There will be card bingo one or both days and Saturday night we will have a white elephant gift exchange. **Please bring one new or slightly used wrapped item per rig, and join in the fun.** Hope to see you all there.

PROPOSED BYLAW WORDING CHANGE

At our last Spring Rally, President, Neil Zinn appointed Chuck Creevan and Mick Serra as a committee to change the wording in the bylaws of the club to include persons who have a non-AutoMate RV and would be interested in joining our club. Such a change would hopefully allow for an increase in our declining membership.

According to the bylaws now, "all current and former owners of AutoMate recreational vehicles shall be eligible for membership upon payment of annual dues". This committee met and with their wives help came to a decision and proposed wording to change the bylaws.

The committee's idea was for a member (sponsor) to invite other RV owners (guest) to on of our rallies. If the guest owner then decides to join the club, they could and would pay dues and thus become a member. This is the way the new wording of the bylaws could be under Article 3, section 1 "all current and former owners of AutoMate recreational vehicles and sponsored guest owners of a recreational vehicle shall be eligible for membership upon payment of annual dues".

The committee only asks that the membership think and talk about this among themselves and action will be taken at the next Spring Rally April 24 - 27, 2014. If anyone has any ideas on this it can be submitted at the Spring Rally or submit them to Chuck Creevan or Mick Serra and they will present them at the Spring Rally.

Sincerely,
Chuck Creevan

AUTOMATE FOR SALE

1994 34' (Including hitch) pull trailer
It has one large slide(works excellent); a new electric jack, hitch equalizer, good tires, and we feel is in very good shape. Located in Hot Springs, South Dakota \$7995.00 Will negotiate
Photos available at autolocatorsinc.net
Paulette Hinderscheit (605) 745-4024
phinderscheit@goldenwest.net

AUTOMATE WANTED

Want to purchase 28'-30' AutoMate, would prefer smooth siding. willing to travel within a reasonable distance to see and or buy.

Contact Kay or Alden Hoover (209) 532-3728
kayhoover@mac.com

FALL RALLY REGISTRATION FORM

Sept. 12, 13, 14 & 15, 2013

Mother Lode Fairgrounds

220 Southgate Dr. (Off Highway 49)

Sonora, CA

Mail to:

Pam Richichi

25 Schooner Lane.

Modesto CA 95356

Cost \$130.00 per rig with 2 persons, \$115.00 per rig with 1 person

Any extra nights camping will be \$20.00 per night & needs to be paid to the AutoMate RV Club.

(If you wait and pay the Fairgrounds directly, you will not get the group rate)

Dead line for registration August 31, 2013

Here is my check made out to **AutoMate RV Club** in the amount of _____.

I am also paying for _____ extra nights @ \$_____ each night.

I will be arriving on _____ I will be leaving on _____

There will be _____ people in my rig. I need handicapped parking.

Name(s) _____

Address _____

_____ Phone _____

e-mail _____

Please remember to bring your new or slightly used white elephant gift wrapped for Saturday night.