

AUTOMATE RV CLUB

NEWSLETTER

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PRESIDENT'S COLUMN

By Neil Zinn

Helen and I are on the road at this time, sitting in Wichita, Kansas. She's attending a national convention for one of her groups while I play tourist and try to get a few things done. Our trip was interesting as we were in hail, snow and rain through Nevada, parts of Utah and most certainly Wyoming as we wound our way East. The day after we passed through Wyoming from Laramie and Cheyenne, in route to Denver the highway was closed because of a 13" snow drop. The last thing I want to worry about is how to go about installing chains on our truck or rig. On the positive side, our new rubber roof, installed by Los Banos RV, is without leaks. I am particularly happy about the way I sealed the strips joining the end caps with the roof proper as I described in an earlier newsletter. New decals are in my immediate future. I just don't know if I will repaint the unit before applying the decals. If anyone has any thoughts on this to share, I'd appreciate your advice. Everything else is working well except, I don't seem to be able to use the air suspension controls to bleed air from the system in trying to achieve level. When I get back in July, I will need to get that looked at. For those of you who attended our Spring Rally in King City, it was good to see you all but with moments of melancholy over the loss of old friends. Like our Automates, we too are aging. Several familiar faces were also absent; we hope to see them in the Fall.

Congratulations and thanks go to Mick Serna for agreeing to be nominated and elected to the position of club Vice President. Ted Martin, has stepped down as club vice president. He deserves our thanks for his service. I note that while serving as

VP, he also stepped forward to serve as Wagon master on one of our outings. Also, special thanks go to Evette Dilley for agreeing to return to her post as Club Secretary. She's the real sparkplug for our organization and worth every nickel she is paid. Actually, you all know she doesn't get paid except for what change she and hubby Jim pick up at our venues through their judicious use of their metal detectors.

Thanks go to the Perrys and Dilleys for agreeing to serve as Wagon masters for our upcoming Fall 2014 Rally. More to come on this soon. For the Spring 2015 rally Mick & Judy Serra will handle the Wagon master duties. Finally, Jerry and Pam Richichi will handle the Fall 2015 rally. Our thanks go to these officers for stepping forward.

Tomorrow we head for Abeline, Kansas and the Eisenhower museum and home. Thunderstorms are expected. Wish us luck. Good health to you all.

SPRING RALLY 2014 **San Lorenzo River Park, King City**

Threats of rain did nothing to dampen the spirits of the 23 rigs and members that came to the spring rally at the San Lorenzo River Park in King City in April. Some of the members showed up early to enjoy the beautiful park and the wine tasting the surrounding area provides.



On Thursday night, when the rally officially began, the members gathered in the club house for the "pot luck hors- d'oeuvre happy hour" giving them a chance to visit and enjoy the varied handmade treats.



Wagon masters, Chuck & Sandy Creevan and Bob & Barbara Fugate had used the excuse of looking for wine to share to visit some of the local wineries in the days before the rally. (Good one, guys.) But they did come back with some good wines to serve at the night's event.



The weatherman's threat of rain "showers" for Friday was a slight understatement. Chicken Little had it more right than the weatherman because we had several "the sky is falling" periods during the course of the day. But that didn't stop everyone from coming in for Bette & John Perry's eggs, biscuits and linguica breakfast. Nothing's better on a rainy morning than good food and good friends to share it with.



Right after breakfast, the board held their annual meeting to go over the agenda for the member meeting to be held on Sat.

The downpours came and went during the day Friday but did nothing to dampen the spirits of our members who ducked inside of rigs to get in some visiting.

By dinner time the clouds had just about moved on. I'm happy to say that dinner that night was a big hit. Happy because it was a sausage & pasta, salad, bread and butter dinner homemade by yours truly. Three wonderful cakes were brought by the Richichis, everyone said that it was a lot of dessert, but I didn't see any leftovers at the end of the rally. There were many requests for the pasta recipe so it will appear later in the Newsletter.



After dinner most of the members stayed and played card bingo lead by Andy Anderson with the assistance of Helen Zinn. This game is always a hit, especially by the "big winners".

Saturday started with clear blue skies that continued throughout the day. We started the day with a donut, pastry and coffee breakfast followed by our annual member meeting. A change in the by-laws and a decision on rally prices were on the agenda and voted on. (see member meeting minutes later in the Newsletter.)



With the dry skies we were able to get out into the sunshine and walk around the park visiting and even walk to the tractor museum to check out the old farming equipment that is there. What a great way to spend a week end.

Soon it was time to gather in the hall for dinner served by a local Mexican restaurant that was enjoyed by all.



And so another successful rally has come to an end. Thanks to all of the people that helped to make it work, from the wagon masters to the committee people and all those who stepped up to lend a hand when it was needed, these rallies would not be possible without you all.

Baked Rigatoni

1 (12 oz) pkg of Rigatoni pasta (cooked & drained)
1 lb bulk Italian sausage (cooked & drained)
Italian seasoning (add to taste to cooking sausage)
1 (26 oz) jar spaghetti sauce (I used Classico Italian Sausage with peppers & onions)
1 lb (4 cups) shredded mozzarella cheese
chopped parsley & grated parmesan cheese

Preheat oven to 350°

In large bowl, combine rigatoni, sausage, parsley, sauce & 2 cups mozzarella & some grated parmesan, mix well.

Put onto greased (I used canola oil spray) baking dish, cover & bake for 40 – 45 minutes or until hot & bubbly. Uncover, top with remaining mozzarella & bake just enough to melt mozzarella. Remove from oven and let set a bit before serving.

For the amount I made for the rally, I used several different types & brands of sauce, cooking them together a bit and added some Italian herbs.

FALL RALLY 2014

The **Fall Rally 2014** will be held at the **Motherlode Fairgrounds in Sonora, Sept. 25, 26, 27 & 28.**

Wagon masters will be the John & Bette Perry and Jim & Evette Dilley. Thursday night we will have a pot luck hors d'oeuvres and wine welcome gathering. (This was a big hit at the Spring Rally)

One breakfast will be Irv's famous pancakes prepared by Jim Dilley and John Perry. The Andersons and the Petersens will be preparing the other breakfast. Both dinners will be catered by Dean's Catering in Sonora. There will be card bingo on Friday night and on Saturday night we will have a "White Elephant" gift exchange, so remember to please bring a new or "slightly used" wrapped gift to participate in the exchange.

Be sure to mark your calendars and plan to attend as this has always been one of the favorite places for our rallies. Remember there are some great wineries and places to see and things to do in the area.

SPRING RALLY 2015

Please make note

When Mick & Judy contacted the Lodi Grape Festival Grounds right after the last rally, they were told that the Festival grounds had not transferred our reservation to April of 2015. Judy was then told that they did not have any open week ends in April of next year. So the Serras made reservations for the week end of **May 14, 15, 16 & 17, 2015** (the first available weekend the Festival grounds had) for the Spring Rally.

AUTOMATE FOR SALE

1997 27 ft 5th wheel with coach slide-out. Awnings on slide-out window & both bedroom windows as well as 10 ft. awning on door/kitchen window side. Includes four (4) wheel covers, 3 sets of orange levelers & other accessories.

Located in Boerne, Texas, near San Antonio.

Asking price is \$5000.00 OBO.

Contact Richard or Kathy Standley (former members)

rhstandley@yahoo.com or (210) 848-9849

JUST AS A RECAP

At the last meeting the members in attendance voted to change the by-laws to read "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". This means that those of you who have friends that do not and have never owned an AutoMate, but you enjoy camping together, can now invite those friends to join the AutoMate RV Club. Just bring them to a rally and introduce them as a new member wanta-be. Remember any friend of yours is a friend of ours.

EDITOR'S NOTE

So sorry this is somewhat late in getting out. My computer has been hinting at crashing for a while now and I have finally run a repair program and it is doing a lot better now.