

AUTOMATE RV CLUB

NEWSLETTER

Issue # 19, Spring, Summer 2007

Editors; Evette Dilley, Florie Matthews
& Roma Vukonich

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PRESIDENT'S COLUMN

By Ed Vukonich

If you were not at the Spring Rally, you missed a real great time. Our hosts, Jim and Sharon West did an outstanding job. Thanks to you both. That brings me to our Fall Rally in Sonora, CA. Oct. 4,5 & 6, 2007. I know the fall committee is working hard to make it a success. So I encourage all members to arrange their schedules to help make this a rousing rally. I MADE A COMMITMENT at the Spring Rally that one of my goals is to increase the attendance at the rallies. I have asked the committee to include a session on Saturday for a complete discussion on the technical aspects of our beloved AUTOMATE. I am not advocating any factory folks at this meeting, however they will be welcome. I believe there is some animosity and I want to concentrate on the positive. I solicit any of your ideas to help me with my aforementioned goal, so please send your suggestions to me. In one of my first actions, a proposal was presented to give the Board authority to increase the dues to \$30.00 per year if required. The action passed, however I do not believe it will be required this year. Your Board will keep you posted. I want to thank all of the board members, with a special thank-you to Dale Clark, for their perseverance in selecting a great group of officers to help me. Bette Perry will be our Treasurer, taking over from Gary Wermuth. Thanks a lot, Gary. Evette Dilley was elected Secretary, replacing Acting Secretary, Connie Golden. The toughest task was to find a Newsletter Editor to replace Connie Golden, who did a great job. Our past President, Dale Clark brokered a deal to have a trifecta of Evette Dilley, Florie Matthews and Roma Vukonich to do the much needed job of Newsletter Editors. Thanks to you three for stepping up to this task.

WHO TO CONTACT

Change of address	Evette Dilley
Payment of dues & Rally fees	Bette Perry
Sunshine Committee	Laurie Wermuth
Newsletter	Any of 3 Editors
General Inquiries & Issues	Ed Vukonich

Last but not least, I can depend on Jim West to continue as Vice President.

I would like all of the membership to rally around my goal to increase the Rally attendance because it is a good time, a technical discussion and above all, you and yours can share the Automate connection. Hope to see you all there and thanks for your consideration.

Ed Vukonich

NEWLY AMENDED BYLAWS PERMIT FORMER AUTOMATE OWNERS TO BE CLUB MEMBERS

Members present at our May 5, 2007 Annual Membership Meeting approved bylaws amendments which now make it possible for former owners of AutoMates to be members of our Club. As a result current members who sell their AutoMate rigs will no longer have to resign their Club membership and former members who once owned AutoMates are cordially welcomed back into Club membership. We therefore look forward to seeing a variety of rigs at our future rallies.

Former members are invited to send their 2008-2009 dues check of \$20 payable to AutoMate RV Club to the new Club treasurer, Bette Perry at 20863 Alfalfa Rd. Crows Landing, CA 95313-9757 The full text of the amended bylaws will be posted on the Club webpage at www.automatervclub.com

FINANCIAL REVIEW OF BOOKS

In accordance with Club Bylaws, a financial review committee, comprised of Sue Tavernetti, Betty Pollack and Bette Perry, reviewed the Treasurer's books for the time period April 1, 2005 to April 19, 2007.

We reviewed all deposits, expenditures, bank statements and treasurer's reports and found them to be in good and proper order.

Signed,

Sue Tavernetti, Betty Pollack and Bette Perry,
May 4, 2007

Suggestions arising out of the review:

- No reimbursements should be made until after the Treasurer receives all receipts.
- If there are more than 1 or 2 receipts, a cover summary should be attached to the receipts.

SPRING RALLY 2007

This year's Spring Rally was held in Hanford, CA. and was attended by 50 RVs and their occupants.



Some members arrived early to catch up on some visiting with friends. By Thurs night the Fairgrounds was filled up and down the main drag with AutoMates. Later that evening the members attended the wine and cheese social.



Friday and Sat. morning we were treated to breakfast parfaits complete with fresh strawberries bought at a local fruit stand.



The week end agenda included several vendors and speakers including the CHP speaking on road safety.

Both nights' dinners were bar-b-cued next to the gathering hall filling the air with wonderful smells of food to come.



And come we did.



A delicious dinner was enjoyed by all. Friday night we were treated to some good Barber Shop singing by a local group.

At Saturday's business meeting, elections were held and past officers were presented with a Plaque of Appreciation.



Jim West presents a Plaque of Appreciation to out going President, Dale Clark and to out going Treasurer, Gary Wermuth.



After dinner that night, the members provided their own entertainment with a "white elephant" gift exchange.



Is it house trained?



We have a matched set.

All in all a good time was had by all. If you missed this Rally, not to worry there will be another one in the fall, be sure and sign up.

AUTOMATE REPAIR AND MAINTENANCE TIPS

By Betty Gillespie Pollack

AutoMate owners need not be worried about maintenance and upkeep of our rigs since there are several experienced shops that are competent in working on our rigs.

We personally have used Jay Smith, Owner, Coach Repair Inc. 209-521-1185, 4630 McHenry Ave. Modesto, CA. Fax 209-521-0300. Jay can fix almost everything on our rigs except air ride suspension problems. We found his work to be excellent and his prices to be very competitive. We first learned about Jay from member Ron Adams whose rig has been kept in good shape by Coach Repair for over 10 years.

Jay is also an authorized dealer for most of the appliances in our rigs. He can fix the Dometic Refrigerator recall problem and has already ordered the repair kit for our rig.

For decal replacement, Jay referred us to Roy Ardis at AutoTrim Design of Stockton, 209-847-1628, fax 209-847-1271. This firm came from Stockton to our rig in the Bay Area and custom made and installed an almost identical decal.

Raul Martinez, AutoMate's former foreman, is also available in Los Banos at 209-634-1974 (work) or 209-827-6775 (home). If your rig cannot be moved, Raul told me two years ago that he can come to where your rig is located if it is in reasonable

proximity to Los Banos. At the last rally, one member told me that while in Kansas he could not get his slide to come in. He called Raul who walked him through the manual process to resolve this problem.

Ray Salazar, AutoMate's former head fix-it guy, now works for Don's RV Center, 4872 Rohde Rd. Ceres, CA 95307. Phone 209-556-9993. Club members who have used his services have been very satisfied.

RECOMMENDED SERVICE CENTER

By Jim West

This information is for all members who live or are in the Fresno area. I have used this business myself and have found that the craftsmanship is top notch and is priced accordingly. It is basically a one man operation and his wife helps in the office. The owner (Devlin Hatton) says that he can do almost any work needed on any unit. Devlin has repaired several AutoMate trailers. I would recommend him to anyone needing RV service. The name of the business is; THE RV FACTORY 3279 W. Sussex Way, Fresno, CA 93722 Phone (559) 229-6244 Owner's name is Devlin Hatton

AUTOMATE TRAILER ELECTRIC STAIRS

By Wally Dinsmore

We have had two problems with our Kwikkee electric stairs in the recent past.

In the first instance the stairs failed to function on opening the door. Our local RV repair shop contacted the stair manufacturer, who suggested that the trailer manufacturer might have connected the unit to a common electrical ground buss, and that the ground should be connected individually to avoid possible corrosion resistance, since most ground busses are made of aluminum. Sure enough, he was right, and connecting the ground wire to a new steel frame location solved the problem.

A few weeks later the stairs failed to function again, but in addition, the batteries were dead. A different shop found that the stair controller, which reverses polarity to the stair motor to either extend or retract the stairs, had shorted out, and drained the batteries really dead overnight. This shop had encountered

this problem with these stairs before. The controller unit had to be replaced. This was completed on June 1, 2007. Interestingly, on this date a replacement Kwiikee Electric Stairs controller was ordered by that shop for another customer, so failure rate must not be very low.

After parking the trailer for a couple of days, disconnected from electricity, the stairs came down when the door was opened, but when the door was closed they only returned to a partly closed condition. The mechanic who had replaced the controller informed me that the stairs' closed position is not determined by a limit switch. Rather, they travel closed until the controller senses a higher current flow, indicating the motor has encountered a higher load, as if the stairs have come up against a stop as in the closed position. This effect can be duplicated by low battery voltage and related higher current flow anywhere in the stair's travel. Sure enough, the once-very-dead batteries had only been partially recharged. Hooking up to power and starting recharge immediately solved the problem, so I continued to recharge for several hours. Thus far, all is OK and I can only hope the batteries have not been damaged permanently by the controller failure and related severe battery discharge.

DOMETIC REFRIGERATOR SAFETY RECALL

(Note: this is being mentioned again because we feel that it is very important that you know this, Editors)

Dometic has recalled many models of it's refrigerators due to a fire safety problem.

The models affected are NDR 1062 9999, RM2652 9999, RM2662 9999, RM2663 9999, RM2852 9999, RM2862 9999, RM3662 9999, RM3663 9999, RM3862 9999 and RM3863 9999.

They were made between April 1997 and May 2003. You can contact Dometic at 888 446-5157 or the national highway Traffic Safety Administration's Vehicle Safety Hotline at 888 327-4236

A NOTE FROM BRENT & BOBBI JOHANSSON

Bill Wyrick has completely fulfilled his promise to make things right. Our door problem has been resolved to our satisfaction. We have received and cashed a check for \$500.00 and have returned the

door. We wish to apologize to any members who were offended by our discussing the problem at the Q&A session, and we wish to thank all those members who supported us.

Sincerely, Brent & Bobbi Johansson

SPECIAL THANKS

To Laurie Wermuth for the inventive and delicious breakfast parfaits at the Spring Rally. For those of you that missed it, you'll get another chance if you go to the Fall Rally as Laurie will be putting out the fixings for one of the two mornings there.

ANOTHER SPECIAL THANKS

To Ed Robinson for taking all the pictures at the Spring Rally and sharing them for this Newsletter.

GET WELL WISHES

Go out to Wally Dinsmore who fell ill on his way to the Spring Rally. Hope he's better soon.

SPRING 2008 RALLY

Mark your calendars.

Jim West reports that the Spring 2008 Rally will be held at the Lodi Grape Festival Grounds, 413 E. Lockerford St., Lodi, CA. The dates are April 17, 18, 19 & 20, 2008. Jim is looking for any volunteers that want to help in several areas. Though the dinners will be catered anyone with ideas or willing to help with the 2 morning breakfasts will be met with open arms. Contact Jim West to volunteer. More information on the rally will be in the next Newsletter.

CLUB NAME BADGES

Can be purchased from
JV CRAFTS

CUSTOM LASER ENGRAVING
8555 S. Wolfe Rd.

French Camp, CA 95231
(209) 993-7820

Fax (209) 983-1885

e-mail: jvcrafts@hughes.net

Members who wish to order Club name badges may do so directly from JV Crafts. The price is \$11.00 per name badge which includes tax and shipping. For the same price you can choose from clip-on, pin-on or magnet type.

“AUTOMATE ROUND-UP” FALL RALLY

The Fall Rally will be Oct. 4, 5, 6 & 7, 2007 at the Sonora Fairgrounds. (Any extra nights are to be paid to the Fairgrounds when you arrive.)

Tamara & Glenn will be catering again.

Schedule will be as follows:

Thur. p.m.—Wine & Cheese Welcome

Fri. a.m.—Breakfast

Fri. p.m.—Pork Loin Dinner

Barn Dawgs Band

Sat. a.m.—Breakfast

Sat. afternoon-Tech discussion & any other subjects.

Sat, p.m.—Tri Tip Dinner

Silent Auction Winners

The Rally will be a Western theme. If you so choose, dress in western attire for dinner. In place of the gift exchange, we will have a silent auction. If you have a nice item at home but don't know quite what to do with it, donate it to the Rally, one item per rig. Bring it to the hall Thursday night and we'll set it all up for the auction. After Saturday night's dinner we'll find out where your item will have a new home. The money will be used to offset the cost of the Rally.

Speaking of the cost, we had to raise the price this year. We are at \$118.00 cost per rig with just the basics:

3 nights camping x \$15.00	= \$45.00
2 night's dinners @ \$15.00 per person	= \$60.00
Cost of hall Rental & Ins.(per rig)	= <u>\$13.00</u>
Total Basic Costs	\$118.00

At \$125.00 per rig, this only leaves \$7.00 left over and that does not cover the rest of the expenses. We need to discuss, as a club, other options, ie. Charge more, pot lucks etc. Be thinking about this.

Meanwhile, see you in October at the “Round-Up”.

Mick & Judy Serra

Chuck & Sandy Creevan

Ross & Julie Stewart

ARTICLES FOR THE NEWSLETTER

If anyone has anything that they would like printed in the Newsletter, please either email to the Editors (putting AutoMate in the subject line) or send it by mail.

AUTOMATES FOR SALE

1998 33' AutoMate Travel Trailer with Hensley Arrow Hitch. 12' dinette/sofa bed slide, rear queen, FULLY FURNISHED. Like new, NO smokers or Pets. Located in Northern Minnesota. Price reduced to \$19,000.00 OBO. Photos available on line. Contact Tom or Mary Ann Brady (218)326-5027

2001 38' AutoMate 5th wheel with 3 slide-outs, ducted AC, 2 furnaces, 2 awnings, 5 window awnings. Convection/microwave w/hood over Atwood 3 burner stove/ oven, 14' side by side refrigerator. Super pantry and pull-out spice cabinet. Splendide washer/dryer combo. Central vacuum, electric steps, 2 TVs, Air Ride, Elect/hydraulic Disk Brakes (new), New Aluminum Wheels/14 ply tires on 7000# axels, Plus lots more. EXTRA CLEAN Super storage in & out. \$44,900.00 OBO Contact Chuck or Ann (360)426-5283 Or albedyllc@yahoo.com Photos sent by email by request

FALL RALLY REGISTRATION FORM

Oct. 4, 5, 6 & 7, 2007

Mail to:

Bette Perry

20863 Alfalfa Rd.

Crows Landing, CA 95313-9757

Cost \$135.00 per rig with 2 persons, \$105.00 per rig with 1 person

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

I will be arriving on _____ There will be _____ people in my rig.

I need handicapped parking.

Name(s) _____

Address _____

_____ Phone _____

e-mail _____