

# **AUTOMATE RV CLUB**

## **NEWSLETTER**

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Editor: Evette Dilley

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### **PRESIDENT'S COLUMN**

By Neil Zinn

Have you noticed that Fall is in the air? It really feels great to me; it seems that the older I get the less tolerant of the heat I become. And maybe, just maybe, we will get the much needed rain that we didn't get last year. I am a little tired of flushing our toilets twice a day to save a few gallons. By the bye, Helen and I just returned from a week in Oceanside and San Diego and learned a bit along the way. The large Central Valley Project canal is running full on south to the pumping plant at the foot of the Grapevine where it begins its trip south. Coming over the Grapevine, we noticed that the big reservoir between there and Valencia was full. Here in Sacramento, Folsom Lake is 1/3 full. Then when visiting friends in Oceanside, I learned that they get to water their yards three times a week and ditto for the City of San Diego. Here in Sacramento it is twice a week and brown is the new green. Interesting. Anyone old enough to remember the Owens Valley?

The Fall Rally is history now and despite our having to leave early on Friday to make a wedding in Healdsburg, it looked like a great success to me. There were some last minute problems but people stepped forward to fill the void and things came off smoothly. Jim Dilley has mastered Irv Baptist's marvelous pancake recipe and I was able to get much desired seconds of them. Great job, folks. While I usually have some anecdote about a problem or issue with our Automate, I am pleased to have nothing to report at this time. I still am fighting with my Winegard Carryout antenna but that's not an Automate issue. I've got a technician coming out soon to try to solve my problems. Hope it works.

This Spring is again our annual business meeting. I would remind everyone that our bylaws require

early notice to the members if there are issues to bring to the members' attention that might require a vote. If you have issues, bring them forward early so the officers can give them a look first. It would be appreciated.

Speaking of votes, we are just a few short weeks away before mid-term elections. I know our age group is good about voting so I would just remind you to take a little extra time to look at the candidates and the ballot measures. An uninformed electorate is a hazard to our way of life so bring yourselves up to speed and consider what is good for the broader society.

Helen and I will see you at the polls and at Lodi in the Spring. Take care of yourselves; old friends are especially precious to us and we don't want to lose any of you.

## FALL RALLY 2014

Well, in spite of a year delay because of the Rim Fire, the Fall Rally 2013 in Sonora finally came to be, all be it a year late. Although most of the work up to the rally had been done by our chairmen, John & Bette Perry, they were not able to be there, as John was getting ALL of his major cardiac arteries replaced (6 way by-pass). But as usual for our group, there was no shortage of help for the co-chairmen, Jim & Evette Dilley.

The number of rigs was down but that did nothing to dampen the mood of those in attendance. Members started coming in on Tuesday so that they could spend some extra time either relaxing and visiting with friends or sightseeing and enjoy the surrounding area.



There is always something to do in Sonora.

Jean Mello, with the help of her daughters, made some beautiful decorations following the theme of "wine country". They got wine bottles put a string of white Christmas lights inside and made labels with the name and photo of each of the couples attending the rally. At the end of the rally the members were able to take home their bottle. Such a great idea.



By Thursday everyone was there to enjoy the Welcoming Happy Hour. It was a pot luck hors d'oeuvres event that had proved to be popular at the Spring Rally. Again it was a big hit.



Friday morning, Jim Dilley, with the help of Jerry Richichi and Chuck Goddard and under the "direct supervision" of Leonard Mello, whipped up a batch of Irv's famous pancakes. As usual, they were a big hit.



The weather continued to be nice so some of the members went out and about doing the touristy things like sight seeing and wine tasting.

Our dinner Friday night was catered by Dean Papapetrou of Dean's catering. Both night's dinners were cooked by Dean and his assistant right in the kitchen of our hall.



Friday's delicious dinner was lemon chicken, rice pilaf, salad, vegetables and dessert. After dinner a rowdy game of card Bingo was played with Ross Stewart pulling a fast one on Jerry Richichi that had all of the group roaring with laughter. Good one, Ross.

Saturday's breakfast was a delicious breakfast casserole (recipe appears later in Newsletter) prepared by Jan & Andy Anderson and Elmer & Elsie Petersen, again another hit. Here are the cooks enjoying the fruits of their labor.



Saturday was a day filled with more relaxing and catching up with old friends, actually, what camping is all about.



Saturday's dinner was another hit by Dean's Catering. It consisted of roast beef, mashed potatoes, gravy, vegetables, salad and dessert. After dinner we had a White Elephant gift exchange with several gifts changing hands a few times.



During the late afternoon and dinner the sky was getting dark and looking like we might get some much needed rain. Little did we know those dark clouds meant business. Right in the middle of the gift exchange the sky opened up and the rain poured down in buckets for about 30 to 45 minutes. Then it stopped as quickly as it started. But it did nothing to dampen the happy mood inside the hall.



Sunday morning dawned dry and clear making packing up to leave less of a mess than trying to do it in the rain. And so until we see each other again at the Spring Rally, safe travels to you all.

## Do Ahead Breakfast Casserole

1# Breakfast Sausage  
1 Large onion, Chopped  
1/2 large green bell pepper, chopped  
1/2 large red bell pepper, chopped  
6 slices white or wheat bread  
or 4 cups cubed bread  
6 eggs  
1 1/2 cups low fat milk  
1 cup shredded cheddar cheese  
Brown sausage in 12 inch skillet, stirring frequently. Meanwhile, peel onion & chop, adding to the skillet as you chop. Continue to cook sausage & onion while you chop the peppers, add them to the pan & continue to cook until sausage is fully cooked.  
Tear or slice bread into cubes. Spry a 2" deep 8 x 11 inch casserole dish that can go from refrigerator to oven. Put the bread into the dish & spread sausage / pepper mixture over top. Whisk eggs & milk until well combined. Pour over bread & sausage mixture. Using a fork, press down until all the bread is moist. Sprinkle cheese over top and cover with plastic wrap. Refrigerate at least 4 hours or overnight. Preheat oven to 375 degrees. Bake 40 to 45 minutes or until lightly brown & puffy & the eggs have cooked through. Let stand 10 minutes before serving.  
serves 12

## FALL RALLY THANK YOU

John and I want to thank each and everyone for your well wishes, prayers, phone calls and your cards. We looked forward to the Fall Rally. It's not like we hadn't prepared for it, 2 years to be exact ! The four of us, John and I, Jim and Evette, had everything all set last year and a fire stopped us. This year everything was all set and then, John and I had a set back - long story short - open heart surgery and six by-passes for John !!

We want to thank Jerry and Pam Richichi for filling in for us, especially on such a short notice and everyone else who helped out.

We also want to thank Jim and Evette for being our co-hosts and all the committee members who took charge for the daily functions. **JOB WELL DONE!!** We looked forward to working with you at the rally together. Your participation helped make the rally a success! **WE MISSED EVERYONE!!** Good Lord willing and the creek don't rise, no fires and no surgeries, we will see everyone at the Spring Rally in Lodi.

**AGAIN, THANKS A MILLION TO EVERYONE!**  
John and Bette Perry

P.S. John is home and on the long road to recovery.  
**AMEN**

## MARK YOUR CALENDARS

**For the Spring Rally.**

**May 14, 15, 16 & 17, 2015.**

Mick and Judy Serra have been putting together the committee and plans for our the next Spring Rally. It will be held on the above dates, in Lodi at the **Lodi Festival Grounds.**

Remember the Spring Rally is when we have our annual meeting and elections. Up for (re)election in odd years are; President, Treasurer and Newsletter Editor. If you are interested in filling any of those positions please contact Neil Zinn (contact info on the front page of the Newsletter). If not please come to the rally to attend the meeting and have a say and or vote. Aside from all of that come to the rally for fun, food and visit with friends.

## AUTOMATE FOR SALE

**1996 30 ft. 5th wheel** Liv/din slide out.

DuoTherm A/C, propane furnace, 2 way Dometic fridge, Microwave, 3 burner stove w/ oven  
Onan 3600 in frame generator, air ride suspension, heavy duty air compressor, 14' awning, new mini blinds thru out.

Great condition Always stored under cover.  
\$10,000 OBO

Tow vehicle also available, but not mandatory.

**2003 GMC Sierra 2500 3/4 ton diesel**

7.3 liter, Allison automatic trans,  
Extended cab 4 door, tool box in bed, hitch,  
step rails, 5 new Michelin tires

92K miles \$20,000

photos on RVTrader

Contact Gretta Spurr

(925) 960-0730 2spurrs@comcast.net

## SUNSHINE NEEDED

Would you like to help spread some sunshine and joy??

Do you enjoy letting people know that they are being thought of in a caring way??

If so, you are just the person we need.

Laurie Wermuth, our "Sunshine person" would like it if someone else can take over the position that she has held and done a great job at for the past several years. It doesn't take much. Whenever someone in the club has become ill or needs to know that their friends in the club are thinking of them, the "Sunshine person" sends a card from "their friends in the AutoMate RV Club". Usually a friend of that person contacts either the secretary or one of the other officers and that person contacts the Sunshine person so that a card can be sent. Cards and stamps can be bought by the club. If this sounds like something you would like to do, please contact Evette so that Laurie can be notified. If needed, Evette has plenty of blank cards that can be passed your way to use for the purpose.

Thanks