

AUTOMATE RV CLUB

NEWSLETTER

Issue # 52 Winter 2015

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PRESIDENT'S COLUMN

By Chuck Creevan

Random thoughts by the president
Just returned from the Fall Rally at Mariposa. The number of rigs that showed up was down for whatever reason but those that attended seemed to have a good time. As for Sandy and me, we thoroughly enjoyed our time in Mariposa. Neither of us had ever been to this part of the world. Seems we lead a sheltered life. On Wednesday, Fugates, Serras, and Creevans took off for Yosemite NP. We toured the park mostly by vehicle (no rock climbing) and had an old fashioned picnic in one of the picnic areas adjacent to El Capitan. We were able to observe some climbers but none of us expressed any desire to go up the mountain. The park is real dry and not much if any flow to the Merced River. There are some huge rocks in the river though. I was surprised at the crowd of people in the park for a Wednesday in October. On Thursday we went with the Emrichs to the Butterfly winery and to Oakhurst. I was surprised at the modern nature and newness of Oakhurst. Again we stopped at a very nice park in the city and had another picnic. Good time with good friends. Would like to thank Jerry and Pam Richichi for putting this rally together. They are to be commended for a job well done. They have the program down to a science. They can be wagon masters anytime. (Just kidding Jerry. You've seen your duty and done it.) One other point of interest was the lesson Jerry gave me on Pickleball. Ask him about it sometime.

Not much will occur camping wise for Sandy and me until spring. Looking forward to the Spring Rally in Lodi. Hope you all mark your social calendars for April 7,8,9,10, 2016. Mick and Judy Serra are Wagon masters and their crew is in place.

One last note and I mentioned this at the last rally. We will need a wagon master for the fall 2017 rally. I know that sounds like a long way off but as the saying goes "time flies". So as you are out and about keep an eye out for a location that we could have a rally. Should you find a place, don't be afraid to book it or you can contact me and I can book it.

FALL RALLY 2015

Mariposa was a great location for our Fall Rally. It's too bad that the attendance was low because the members that did attend had a great time. The weather was wonderful, the scenery beautiful and the time spent with old friends was priceless.



Several of those attending arrived early to take advantage of the extra time to go sight seeing in Yosemite and other points of interest in the surrounding area.

The rally officially started on Thursday evening with the pot luck hors-d-oeuvres welcome. We had some new members attending so it gave them a chance to get to meet others in the club. The evenings warm enough to allow members to sit out in groups visiting and watching the moon and stars in a cloudless sky.

Friday morning Helen and Neil Zinn got up early to make us a delicious breakfast of "Cowboy potatoes" (recipe to follow) and biscuits from scratch, WOW, Helen. It all was a big hit.



After breakfast groups of members went of to either visit the town of Mariposa, Oakhurst and the surrounding area. By late afternoon they returned back to the fairgrounds to gather in groups for "happy hour" before dinner.



Our dinner was catered by BB's Catering in Mariposa with home made brownie dessert provided by Sandy Creevan and Ann Emrich.



After dinner those that wanted stayed for a couple of games of BINGO then it was off to enjoy the beautiful evening sitting out under the stars, some around the fire, some just visiting outside their rigs. Saturday's breakfast was pancakes mixed up by Jim Dilley and cooked by him and Pam Richichi. Sausages and fruit salad was also served to round out the meal.



Again trips to local areas were planned. There also is a "mineral museum" right on the fairgrounds that several of the members went through. It had some very interesting and beautiful samples of many different kinds of minerals and a mock up of a gold mine tunnel that gave one the feeling of being in a mine (sort of). So many beautiful semi precious minerals in their natural state, it was well worth the time going through there.

Another of the local adventures is the Mariposa Zip Lines. Just so happens the Dilleys had made reservations for themselves and the Richichis to try it out. So off we went to "zip our way" down and about the hills above Mariposa. It was a great time.



Saturday's dinner was catered by Dave's Western BBQ of Mariposa and dessert was a special ice cream sundae created by Helen and Neil Zinn. Our after dinner entertainment was a white elephant gift exchange, with several items making their way through more than one person's hands. In the end every couple came away with something.



And so another successful rally came to an end but not without good times enjoyed by all who attended. The location was great, the scenery was beautiful and of course the friendships were and are priceless. Hope you are marking your calendars for future rallies.

COWBOY POTATOES

- 2 lbs frozen hash browns
- 1/2 cup melted butter
- 1 1/2 tsp salt
- 2 tsp pepper
- 1 can cream of chicken soup
- 6 oz. potato chips (crushed small)
- 2 Tbsp minced dried onion
- 2 cups sour cream
- 2 cups shredded sharp cheddar cheese

Mix wet ingredients together, add cheese
 Mix in frozen potatoes (Helen used Oreida)
 Put in 9 x 13 pan. Can be made early & put in fridge overnight.
 Sprinkle crushed potato chips just before baking.
 Bake @ 350 for 1 hour
 Helen added cubed fully cooked ham & 1/3 cup chopped red bell pepper, chopped green onions can also be added instead of dried onion
 Serves 12 plus per pan

ICE CREAM SUNDEA DESSERT

by Helen Zinn

Vanilla Ice Cream - I used Dreyers Vanilla Bean Butter Scotch Schnapps - about 1 Tablespoon (or more if desired)

Almond Roca Candy - crushed - about 1 Tablespoon

Whipped Cream - if desired

I served Keeblers Fudge Sticks along with the Ice Cream

I DIDN'T KNOW THAT

by Neil Zinn

One of the things that my dad taught me was to hang around smart people. He said if I followed this advice, I might learn something useful. Well, that's one of the reasons I enjoy going on AutoMate rallies because they offer an opportunity to hang around some smart people and learn something.

This past rally at the Mariposa Fairground was no exception. As RV owners, there is always something going wrong or not quite working right that needs fixing on our rigs. So here are a couple of things I picked up from savvy members.

My 12 volt interior lights weren't quite working right; that is, there was some flickering going on that didn't make a lot of sense to me. I wondered whether the park power was faulty and that might be causing the problem. Fortunately, I was parked next to Ross Stewart who spent a goodly part of the time lounging around in his chair "holding court" as club members straggled by. I always enjoy talking to Ross because he's also a hunter and we get to tell stories about this or that.

Well, this time, Ross suggested that my problem might lie with corroded battery terminals after I laid out my problem. Maybe, I thought; how long has it been since I looked at my batteries? I have four Trojans, 6 volt golf cart batteries. So I popped open the door and guess what? The four batteries have a total of eight terminals and three of them were sprouting nice blue corrosion "flowers". Well, how about that, I thought. I jumped inside the RV and opening the refrigerator I swiped the wife's box of baking soda she uses to deodorize the fridge. I dug out my bucket, filled it with water, borrowed a terminal brush and set about cleaning the battery terminals and soaking the cables in the water and

soda mixture before putting everything back together making sure that everything that needed to be in series was in series and what needed to be in parallel was in parallel. Bottom line? It worked; no more flickering of interior 12 volt lights. So a tip of the hat to the "great bear", Ross. Thank you sir.

The next learning opportunity came when Jerry Richichi was struggling with his air compressor, you know, the thing that keeps our air suspension system going. In this instance, long time guru, Jim Dilley, had the answer. Jim is one of those guys that just knows about stuff, whatever it is. He's usually my first choice, even before resorting to reading our club manual. (I know, I know, "RTFM" is what I should be doing but it can be faster to ask.) Anyway, there is a small plug type thingy attached to the compressor itself to which two 12 volt electrical wires are attached. Of all things, it's called a "pressure switch" and its function is to turn on the compressor when the pressure drops below 90 psi and turn off at 120 psi. Make note of those numbers because they are important when you buy a replacement part as there are other switches with other settings. Apparently, when they fail, they continue to pump and you'd have to turn your control switch from "travel" or "level" to "park" to get it off. In failing, you might fry the switch itself and most likely the power connector that attaches to it.

So, be prepared to repair the wire connectors if needed. You should have a selection of yellow and blue connectors in your tool kit and the proper crimping tool to fasten them to the wire end. But how do you find a replacement pressure switch in a place like Mariposa? You probably won't; this is one of those things that you should have in your parts box. Jerry discovered them on Amazon.com; he ordered several extras. I followed his example when I got home and ordered a pair, just in case. On Amazon they cost \$5.88 each and postage was free. You need at least one spare in your kit along with the required wire connectors. A tip of the hat in this instance to Jerry Richichi and Jim Dilley for this one.

Lastly, and I don't have the full story on it, is making repair to our Day and Night window shades. Jim and Evette Dilley tell me that you can get the address of the company from our manuals and get a free cord repair kit from the manufacturer (and

instructions) to fix a broken shade cord. This is as opposed to going to the "Dirty Blind Man" or Camping World and buying the repair kit. The cords do wear out and need replacing so here is a way to do it. Again, a tip of the hat to the Dilleys for knowing about this and sharing the information. We all need to know these things. As you run into problems, make note of them and send them into Evette so she can put them into the newsletter. Please, and thank you for doing it.

AUTOMATE FOR SALE

2005 AutoMate 5th wheel, 33' 3 slides

Yes I know the factory officially closed in 2004; This was one of the last three 5th wheels completed which was in 2005, according to the original owner - which I bought just 4 months ago. (Generally three slides were only available in 35 ft +)
Extra ceiling height in the kitchen, dining & living room (same height as the upper master deck) This allowed for more cabinets & has a very open feel to the layout. Real Oak hardwood flooring & after the dining slide is out.
Shower – tub combo; Lots of storage, cabinets & clothes closets in this unit.
Onan 4000 watt generator – around 325 hours;
4 full size batteries (not 2)
Main awning is motorized; Air compression for suspension and air hose;
Tires in excellent condition (& spare), with upgrade size, ply tires & rims.
Hitch receiver & wired for additional trailer to pull.
More importantly, frame was built for the extra hitch & towing capacity.
Outdoor BBQ grill with connect to LPG gas
Water tank, gray & black water tanks were increased in size for larger capacity from factory.
Direct TV Dish & equipment; New TV in both living & bedrooms; CD & Radio with speakers in ceiling & in bedrooms with controller; Wired for Solar panels.
All service manuals from the factory, & any other items purchased have manuals.
There is much more than I have listed. Blue book, high over \$30,000 & low over \$28,000
Will sell for \$24,950.00 – if interested for photos & more information Call (916) 812-1571 or email rich@aboutnewlife.com located in Citrus Heights (Sacramento area) .

2003 AutoMate 5th wheel, 33' 2 slides

Slide out pantry, Corian counter tops
Free standing dinette table with 4 chairs
New Mannington Adura flooring
42" flat screen TV in living room
New flat screen bedroom TV
Jack bed couch with storage drawer underneath
Extra wide Garden Shower, Porcelain toilet
Fantastic fans (one with remote)
Splendide Washer/dryer unit
Outside shower, Water filtration system
Large panoramic rear window
Built in outside speakers
Electric steps, Window awnings, Slide toppers
Custom built rear carry all rack with bike rack attachment
4- 140 Watt solar panels, 2800 Watt Inverter
4 brand new golf cart batteries
Air Ride suspension, Air Ride pin box
Hydraulic Disc brakes
5 brand new Goodyear 14 ply tires
Original price \$85,000
Excellent condition, Like new in and out
All maintenance records available
located in Healdsburg, CA
Price \$30,000
Ray Teldeschi
(707) 433-3083 (707) 484-2414
lori@delcarlowinery.com
Call for pictures or more info

SPRING RALLY 2016

Save the dates of April 7, 8, 9 & 10, 2016
for our Spring Rally to be held in Lodi at the Grape Festival Fairgrounds.
Your host will be Mick & Judy Serra and Norm & Anne Emrich. They have their helpers in place and some good dinners and breakfasts are being planned for all who come.
Don't forget we have our annual meeting at the Spring Rally
Remember there is a lot to see and do in the area including several wineries and lots of good Mexican restaurants if you're planning on coming early and don't feel like cooking. Judy Serra says we can arrive as early as April 5. Just remember to make note of that when you send in your registration.