

March 2021 Newsletter



Well this will be the last newsletter by your President and this newsletter will be my last as well. Laurie and I are moving to Banning. Laurie's brother in Banning is going through some medical issues and Laurie wants to be close by. Sun Lakes Country Club, a 55 and older community, is about a mile away and that will make for a short drive when she wants to give her sister in law a hand. We also know another couple in the Country Club and have visited the community a few times.

We're busy packing boxes and will have our condo on the market soon. We plan on staying in our RV until a home becomes available in the Country Club. We're hoping for a particular model home we like, preferably on the golf course.

We'll continue as long distance members of the club but I'll have to pass on my duties as President and your monthly newsletter writer/editor.

So, I'll again ask club members to step forward and participate as board members or chair personnel. You have some club members who have participated in these positions for sometime and I know would gladly pass on those duties to new volunteers. Please consider doing so. You can contact Roslyn Ginnis, our Vice President. These positions are not time consuming and it gave me something to do with some of my free time. It's not a 9 to 5 job.

It's been a pleasure participating as a board member and both Laurie and I have enjoyed not only being members of the club but residents of this community as well. The club became a second family for us and we'll miss being around the corner from all of you. I will also miss the wood shop and Laurie will miss being part of the Quilt Guild. We will continue as club members (from a distance) and look forward to future camping with all of you once we are settled in Banning.

Roslyn Ginnis is still collecting bios for the newsletter. If you want to share a little background about you, your camping adventures, work background, etc. forward your information to her and she'll feature you in the next newsletter.

RALLY UPDATE:

Rally / Camp Out -- Lone Pine/ Bishop MAY16TH TO MAY 23RD

THE GOOD NEWS - We have 12 confirmed sites at each location - full hook ups.

LONE PINE, BOULDER CREEK MAY 16,17,18 -- \$55/night group (Good Sam's)
BISHOP ,HIGHLAND RV MAY19 - 23 -- \$40.50/ NIGHT group
The rates include tax, etc

Current update as of Feb 28th:

It is unknown if the club house, rest rooms, lobbies will be open..... Restaurants in both parks are currently offering take out only. Places like Laws Railroad, the Film History Museum, Manzarnar are either closed for the winter or on limited hours ... So far these points of interest are not committing to being open in May. Don't let some of the closed amenities influence your decision. For our newer members, use this as an opportunity to familiarize yourself with your RV's (if you recently purchased one) or simply meet other members of the club.

THERE IS NO COST UNTIL WE ACTUALLY CHECK IN AND (THEY) WILL HANDLE EACH RESERVATION INDIVIDUALLY. I WILL GIVE YOU THE NUMBERS AND CONTACT INFO AFTER,THE 15TH, ALTHOUGH THEY WOULD LIKE ME TO GIVE THEM A HEADCOUNT SAY BY THE 10TH.

If you have any questions contact Doug & Lorrie Gibson at 949-395-6419.

At this point the following have indicated they are interested.

Gibson, Noonan, Furland, Gross, Gilad (new), Roper, Gee, Roslyn/Ron, Iris, Nancy and I have talked with a few others.

Everything here and around the state is improving. If some State and County Guidelines are still in place this will still be a nice trip and a good opportunity to get the Hell out of Dodge!

Tips:

Since we have some new club members and I believe some that are new to RVing, I thought the following information would prove useful.

There are some common mistakes that new RVers make that should be avoided if possible! Avoiding these 10 common mistakes can save you a lot of headache, hassle and money! I found the following on a site called RV REPAIR CLUB.

I receive information via our online mail. A monthly subscription is available if you want further information.

1. Driving Off While Connected

As crazy as it sounds, it has happened. You should always do a walk around before departing from your RV site! Make sure all hookups are disconnected, windows and vents are closed, stairs are up and the antenna is down.

2. Not Knowing Your Size

It's imperative that you know the size of your rig. Knowing the height keeps you from attempting bridges, awnings or parking garages that are too low. You need to know your length to know what size campsite you fit into!

3. Not Using A Checklist

Checklists are exceedingly important on moving day. Keep a list handy of everything you need to do in order to pack up and be safely ready to leave a site. I personally have left behind my chocks and our plastic table cloth on the bench next to the RV.

Pre-Trip Checklist

4. Overpacking

You rarely need as much as you think you do! Weight is important in RVs, and the more stuff you cram inside, the more cluttered it will feel and the greater negative impact it has on your gas mileage!

5. Leaving The Awning Out

Never leave your awning out when you leave your RV. You never know when a storm could pop up with strong gusts of wind that could rip your awning right off! You cannot replicate windsurfing with your RV.

6. Crushing Your Chocks

Always check to see if you've remembered to remove all chocks before rolling away. Failing to do so will result in crushed chocks! I use small containers with moth balls to prevent 4 legged intruders. I set these on top of my tires and slice to tops of the containers. The smell is supposed to deter animals that like to visit while you're away. If you do the same, don't forget these as I flattened a pair last year.

7. Failing To Plan Ahead

There are many things you should plan for when RVing. Calling ahead to reserve an RV site takes the stress out of guessing if there will be room for you if you arrive last minute. Checking a map to see if there is a grocery store near your destination lets you know how much food you should have with you when you arrive, unless you're willing to do a lot of driving. In some parts of the country, gas stations are few and far between so planning your gas stops is really important. It's always good to have a plan! Costco gas is a good alternative for those who are members but some can be difficult to navigate. On a few occasions I had to disconnect our tow vehicle so I could leave after gassing up. I've utilized the satellite view in google maps ahead of time so I know what I'm getting into. I've also used the Gas Buddy app when Costco hasn't been nearby. This app will show you on a map where to gas up along your route and list the price of the gas.

8. Leaving The Ceiling Vent Open

If your ceiling vent doesn't have a rain sensor, always remember to close it when it starts raining. Leaving it open makes quite a wet mess!

9. Leaving The Black Tank Open

Always keep your black tank closed. Keeping it open allows solids to build up in the tank, creating a "poop pyramid!" Using plenty of water when flushing and keeping the black tank closed can prevent a disgusting dilemma!

10. Not Documenting Your Travels

RVing is a lot of fun! Seeing different parts of the world in your home on wheels is something not everyone gets the opportunity to do. Documenting your travels can be beneficial to yourself and others! As a club we always appreciate a member sharing a recent camping trip during our monthly meetings (when we start up again). If you place your adventure on a flash drive a computer and screen is available in the clubhouse we use for our monthly meetings.

You may choose to remember your adventures through photographs or by keeping a written account of them. Keeping little reminders of RV life that you can look back on or pass down to generations to come is a precious gift. You can also keep track of parks or places you particularly enjoyed so you remember where you want to revisit one day and again, share with the club!

With RVing, you're always learning something. Hopefully this list of common mistakes will get you started on a good foundation to have an incredible RV experience!

MEET YOUR FELLOW RV WHEELERS

Since we can't yet meet together in person, we're continuing to highlight our awesome members! If you enjoy these stories, consider sending me yours for future issues! They will become a link on our website directory.

Roslyn Ginnis, Membership VP rlynnie69@gmail.com



NEW MEMBERS



We are Neal and Candi Hutchinson, long time campers and backpackers but recent motorhome owners. We are happy to join a group full of veteran RVers, because we have many questions and will take advice!

We moved to our manor in the Village four years ago, from Mission Viejo, where we raised our two sons. We updated our Garden Villa manor and got to know our neighbors. It's been great not having yard work. Neal is a Director of a cosmetic lab nearby, while Candi just retired from many years of teaching elementary school.

Our "new" rig is a 2005 Winnebago motorhome and we just love it. Being able to travel in comfort is a welcome change after sleeping in a tent for so long! Our other interests include bicycling, recent European travel, reading and singing in our church choir (soon).

We have had our vaccinations and look forward to meeting you all shortly.

MEMBERS ON THE MOVE

Since very few people are sending me articles for our reading pleasure, here's what Ron and I have been up to in February. Please send me pictures and stories from YOUR travels!

Last October, while camping in Pismo Beach, we made reservations at four California coastal campgrounds for February, 2021, long before we knew there would be a 2nd shutdown of public campgrounds in California. One of these campgrounds was Pismo State Beach – right next door to Pismo Coast Village where we'd been staying. We'd ridden our bikes through the campground and thought it was a beautiful park – next to the Monarch Butterfly Preserve and with easy access to the beach. We knew it was strictly dry camping but with our solar panels and a generator, we figured we'd be fine without hookups, even in winter. But that campground sometimes floods in the rainy season, and two weeks before setting out on our February trip, our reservation was cancelled. While not usually an issue, those four nights were sandwiched in the middle of a 10-night trip where we had other reservations in Ventura and San Luis Obispo Counties, so we searched for other campgrounds in the area. Lucky for us we found another great campground to add to our increasing list of CA parks where we've concentrated during the pandemic.

Our first stop was at one of our favorite beach campgrounds, Faria Beach Park, in Ventura County. While the spots are tight, backing in against the rocks with beautiful sunsets and the sounds of the ocean lulling us to sleep keeps us coming back to this peaceful and relaxing place. We moved on to Carpinteria State Beach where we enjoyed the beach, biking and cooking outdoors. Temperatures were perfect for winter dry camping in southern California – with highs in the 60s and lows in the mid 40s.



We headed north to the Central Coast, discovering El Chorro Regional Park, a lovely campground in San Luis Obispo. This is the campground that replaced our flooded Pismo Beach reservation, and we feel fortunate to have found it! There we hiked, walked around the golf course and cooked fabulous meals: our first night we BBQ'd chicken and asparagus on the grill, and baked fresh challah bread over coals in our Dutch Oven, using the remaining coals to bake a cranberry orange dessert!! On Valentine's Day we BBQ'd a beautiful rib eye steak purchased from the student butcher shop at Cal Poly. We also purchased smoked cheese and fresh cut flowers sold by the Cal Poly Dairy and Cal Poly Plants! Those flowers were so fresh that they are still beautifully gracing our dining room 2 weeks later! We love discovering neat places like Cal Poly Meats and we were glad to support the students there!



From SLO we travelled six miles to Morro Bay State Park – another of our favorite campgrounds. We could only get two nights with hookups there as those spots fill up very quickly, but we loved every minute. There we biked the park a couple of times, went into town for fish and chips, and walked across the street to the bay. We met some very nice people, and left with reservations for the same site in August!!



We decided to break up our drive, stopping in either Santa Barbara or Ventura on the way back to Laguna Woods. We ended up in a gorgeous site at Refugio State Beach – a place we’ve always wanted to camp. Had it not been for our need to get home to get our 2nd vaccine, we would have tried to stay longer than only two nights! Our 10–night trip became a 12–night trip and as always we walked into our house here in Laguna Woods saying, “It’s good to go, but it’s always good to come home!” Looking forward to our upcoming trips in March, April and May!

