

Gold Country Travelers

e-Newsletter

September 2009



[A Chapter of Sunny Travelers International](#)

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President's Message

Well gang, I am going to talk mainly to 5th wheel members which most of our club members have. Anyway, I had our 5th wheel trailer locked (with a pad lock) into the 5th wheel hitch, hooked in. I have always done this and I certainly will always to it from now on. As Marsha and I turned onto Highway 1 at Tomales, the hitch failed. Yes, our Reese "16K" hitch failed and our 5th wheel ripped of the truck tailgate and parked itself on



Highway 1. Thanks to Chuck and Arlys, who were following us, for directing traffic on Highway 1 and thanks to the Tomales Fire Department that came and took over. Between Chuck and Arlys and the firemen, we were able to get the trailer hitched again and creep down to Dillon's Beach at 15 mph. So why am I telling all our tale of terror? Make sure your trailer or 5th wheel is properly hitched and locked onto your tow vehicle. Failures can still happen, but you don't want the damages that we incurred or the scare that we had. Fortunately no one was hurt and no one else was involved. Dave

July Outing at Olema RV Park

Scott & Christy Nyland, Wagon Masters

Nine rigs found themselves within Cedar Circle at Olema RV Resort from July 13th through July 16th. Several guests attended including Pam Lee (Richard and Virginia's daughter),

In This issue

(click on title to jump to it)

[Presidents Message](#)

Recent Outing Stories

[July at Olema](#)

[August at Dillon Beach](#)

Upcoming Outings

[September 24-27 at Cisco Grove](#)

[October 10-12 at Lone Pine](#)

[November 12-15 in Redding](#)

[December 5 Christmas Party – Logan's Road House](#)

[Meeting Minutes](#)

Tech Tips

Birthdays & Anniversaries

2010 Outing Calendar

Jan 20-27, Yuma, Az.
Rogers, Wagon Masters

February
TBA

Mar 25-29, Bodega Bay
Poynters, Wagon Masters

Apr, Jackson Rancheria
Fernandez, Wagon
Masters

May 20-23 Little Bear
Bilhiemer, Wagon Masters

June – Cisco Grove
Couser, Wagon Masters

July
Larvergne Wagon Master

Aug Dillon Beach
Lee, Wagon Master

Sept 23-26 Napa
Watkins & Cooper

October
Ha, Wagon Masters

November
TBA

December
Christmas party

Randy and Maggie Fernandez (Joan and Ed's son and daughter-in-law) and Jeanie and Bud (Murl's sister and brother-in-law) Jeanie and Bud have a new family member named Campy short for Happy Camper. He's a Chihuahua that reminded us of Poppy, one of the main characters in the movie Beverly Hills Chihuahua. We had wonderful weather for camping.....mild days with chilly evenings for the campfire. Our days were spent



visiting and exploring The Pt. Reyes area. Several people went out to view the Tule Elk and Pierce Ranch (It is the oldest dairy at Pt Reyes. It was started in 1857 and was active until 1966. Its butter was served in San Francisco in the 1850's. All of its buildings have been well preserved and have

informational plaques with them. It truly was it's own small town in its heyday. Other explorers came back with tales about the earthquake walk, the lighthouse, Drakes Beach, Bovine Bakery and shops in Pt. Reyes Station. We even had "bikers" with us this time. Ed, Randy and Maggie Fernandez explored the countryside on their mountain bikes. Maggie's bike was brand new so it got dirty for the first time. Our evenings found us playing 31 and enjoying a campfire every night. One evening, 31 was so quickly played there was time for an entire campfire after the game. Our big winners were Bob Kuhlman, Yvonne Collins, and Christy Nyland. Tuesday night we had dinner at The Stationhouse Cafe in Pt. Reyes Station. The food and service were wonderful. Liz our waitress was gracious to take a picture of us during a very busy time. When you see the picture you can see she's a good photographer too (recently we did send an additional note of thanks to her boss making sure she knew we were very happy campers). Wednesday night was the big potluck. We did a "picnic theme" with green tablecloths for grass and flower centerpieces, which included bug and frog guests. Ham and turkey sandwiches with salads, appetizers side dishes and deserts were all part of the picnic fare. We had plenty left over for a "leftover potluck" the next night where we also sang "Happy Birthday" to Pam. Overall it was a wonderful outing and a great way to avoid the summer heat in Sacramento. Thanks again to everyone for the wonderful food and firewood.

August Campout and 11th Annual Spaghetti Feed

We hope everyone enjoyed the Dave and Marsha Lee August campout. Even though we had an unusual start, we had a good time. As Chuck and Arlys and Marsha and I headed towards Dillon's Beach, our 5th wheel trailer hitch failed and our trailer parked "itself" on

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Highway 1. We didn't want to camp on Highway 1, so we re-hitched the 5th wheel (with the Roger's and Tomales Fire Department help) and limped down to Dillon's Beach.

After we reached Dillon's Beach, the weekend improved dramatically. Six members had arrived by Thursday and we all had a good time



enjoying the ocean and good weather.

On Friday, 3 more rigs showed up. We took the traditional "big" walk (if you haven't taken the walk, you probably don't know what I am talking about) and had the beer and treats at the store.

Friday night we had a clam chowder feed where each rig's clam chowder was combined in the community pot and the results were outstanding. After dinner we had blackberry pie in honor of Dave's birthday and a great time around the fire.

Saturday was very relaxing even though the "World" bocce ball championship took place. Saturday night we had our traditional spaghetti feed and yes, it was world class. We also sang "Happy

Birthday" to Scott Nyland and Christie brought lemon meringue pie in his honor.

Sunday we had our breakfast meeting. Later in the day, the tow truck arrived and towed our 5th wheel home. Most of us had to go back home, so we packed up and said our good byes.

It was a great campout and we plan on continuing the August tradition.

Upcoming Outings

September 24-27, Cisco Grove, Coopers and Watkins Wagon Masters

This is a new place for our group, located in the high Sierras.

We have reserved 15 sites with Water, Electric and Sewer, at \$32.00 per night.

CISCO GROVE CAMPGROUND & RV PARK, I-80 @ Cisco Grove Exit (Exit 165).

For reservations please contact Larry Cooper.

Phone numbers are 707-428-0508 or C 707-688-8266

Email – architectlc@sbcglobal.net

October 10-12

Aaron & Carmen Harris invite you to join us in a weekend of camping at

Diaz Lake Campground, Hwy 395, 3 miles South of Lone Pine, Ca

Dry camping, no hookups, \$10.00 per day per rig.

The main event for this trip is the Lone Pine Cowboy Film Festival

For Reservations and Questions, contact: Aaron & Carmen Harris, Wagon Masters

email: honeytree@juno.com or call (916) 543-0752.

November 12-15

Come camp with us “on the river” at JGW RV Park , 6612 Riverland Dr., Redding, CA 96002

Phone: (530) 365-7965, (800) 469-5910.

Full hookups, Cable TV, WiFi, Contact Howard or Judy Hitt, Wagon Masters.

On Saturday Night we will be dining at Peter Chews Chinese Restaurant

For reservations contact:

email: howardhitt@wavecable.com, jhitt@wavecable.com or call (916) 315-8844

December 5

Annual Christmas Party at Logan’s Road House, Sacramento

Appetizers at 5:00, start ordering dinner between 5:45 and 6:00.

Order off the menu, separate checks.

Contact Cindy Gore for more info. (916) 929 3810

Meeting Minutes

Gold Country Travelers, Woodson Bridge Outing Minutes

April 25, 2009

Wagon Masters Greg and Jennifer Leard opened the meeting at 9:10am. A round of applause for a great outing was given to Greg and Jennifer and for the nice weather we enjoyed. The wine tour at the New Clairvaux Winery and Monastery was a success and would be on the list of things to do the next time the group stayed at Woodson Bridge.

Jim and Judy McGrew reported that the May 14 to 17 outing at Rio Viento was set to go and that a final count of people going was needed by April 25th.

Jack and Betty Isola said that the itinerary was not yet set for their outing at Blue Lakes but would be out shortly.

Meeting closed at 9:24am.

Bryce W. Smith, Secretary

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May 2009, Gold Country Travelers

Rio Viento Outing

No Official minutes taken, no officers present.

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June 2009

Gold Country Travelers, Pine Acres Campground, Meeting Minutes

Officers Present:

David Lee, President

Chuck Rogers, Vice President

Bryce Smith, Secretary

Meeting Opened by President, David Lee at 8:55 on June 21, 2009.

David thanked Betty and Jack Isola for having a great outing at Blue Lakes and a round of applause was given. David also recognized that this outing would be the last one hosted by Jack and Betty and thanked them for their past service to the club.

Scott and Christy Nyland reported on their outing at Olema in July. They have nine rigs going and would like to have one more to get the price break.

David and Marsha Lee will host the August 20 – 23 outing at Dillon Beach. Need a final count by the end of July. David said that the environmentalists are giving the owners of Dillon Beach trouble and he does not know how much longer there will be a camp ground at the Beach.

John and Shirley Watkins and Larry and Roberta Cooper will host the outing at Cisco Grove and need people to sign up early.

Chuck Rogers gave a report on the Yuma Outing in January 2010. There are 9 confirmed rigs going at this time.

President Lee reported on the status of SunnyTravelers International. He stated that several of the National chapters have disbanded or are no longer affiliated with National for a number of reasons. David also said that GCT was one of the strongest clubs and that we are an independent chapter affiliated with SunnyTravelers International.

Secretary Bryce Smith reported that the Chapter by-laws are being updated due to changes voted upon by membership at the meetings of August 2007 and February 2009. Bylaw changes will be distributed to the Board of Directors for markup and should be ready for membership vote on at the outing in August.

John Saylor said that he needs newsletter material by June 30th.

Meeting closed at 9:15am.

Bryce W. Smith, Secretary

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TECH TIPS

Blow-out on I-5

We recently took a trip with our grand daughter to Monterey. On the way home on I-5 a few miles North of Santa Nella, the left rear trailer tire blew. I looked back in the mirror just in time to see it blow bits of rubber, smoke and the Sunnybrook fender flying out from the trailer! The tires were Goodyear Marathon Load range D and were 5 years old. We cautiously put on the spare as trucks and cars raced by. At home, after I got the tire replaced by Americas Tire and was putting the spare back on the rear rack, Darren and I noticed a flat spot on it. It was already separating inside and ready to blow anytime! Americas also replaced this one. If we had been on a longer trip, we may have been stuck

on the road with two flats! I filed a damage claim with Goodyear to replace the fender skirt and two hubcaps. I got an estimate from Pan Pacific, French Camp. Goodyear sent me a check for the full amount including labor. I installed the new fender skirt myself. I replaced the two Marathons with Greenball Trailmasters, load range E. So, if your trailer tires are over four years old watch them carefully and replace them soon and I do not recommend Goodyear Marathons, I have had several bubbles and two blowouts and one almost. Also the 15" Marathons are not available in the heavier load range E. The Americas Tire manager speaks highly of the Trailmasters, so I will have to see how they hold up. John

Water Heater Drip

While camping at Dillon Beach last month, I discovered that my water heater had a small drip leak at the drain plug, The plug was covered with minerals. When we got home, I drained and flushed the heater tank. I read the instructions in the water heater manual which recommends flushing once or twice a year to get the minerals out. I put it back together but now I had a severe leak at the drain plug. I re-read the manual and determined that I had followed the instructions properly - which I had.

I called Atwood and spoke to tech support. I explained what I had done and told the man I now had a severe leak. His first question was "Did you put plumbers dope on the drain plug?" I told him no and that I had followed the manual. He replied that he did not know if the info on plumbers dope aka plumbers putty, pipe thread compound etc was in the manual or not, but it needed to be used. I got the plumbers dope and the plug seals up fine.

There is no mention of this need in the manual for the water heater. I guess we are supposed to read their minds as I am not a plumber. Hope this helps someone else. Chuck

5th Wheel Hitch Pull Test

The "Pull Test" is really simple and takes a couple of minutes to do. Do it EVERY time you hitch up the trailer no matter how far you plan to pull it. This will give you peace of mind that you did it right but may not help if something breaks or fails.

1. Hitch the trailer as usual, latch and lock the hitch shut.
2. Raise the front jacks till they just barely clear the ground.
3. Verify the wheel chocks are in place.
4. Depress and hold the manual trailer brake button on the brake controller.
5. Put the truck in Drive or first 1st gear and SLOWLY pull forward.
6. You should immediately feel the engine lug down as the wheel chocks and trailer brakes stop the trailer. The hitch should stay locked up to your truck.
7. Raise the front jacks to their normal stored position and store the wheel chocks.
8. Wave good-bye and hit the road.

(copied from myrvtalk.com RV owners forum)

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Birthdays & Anniversaries

Happy Birthday to:

Betty Isola	July 7
Kathy Stohlman	July 13
Virginia Lee	July 22
Judy McGrew	Aug 4
Howard Hitt	Aug 8
Maryan Billips	Aug 11
Jim McGrew	Aug 19
Scott Nyland	Aug 22
David Lee	Aug 25
Karen Puthuff	Sept 17
Cindy Gore	Sept 26

Happy Anniversary to:

David & Marsha Lee	July 7
Kay & Eula Erwin	Aug 2
John & Shirley Watkins	Aug 26
Richard & Virginia Lee	Sept 10
Howard & Kathy Stohlman	Sept 13
Bob & Jo-Ann Kuhlman	Sept 26
Scott & Christy Nyland	Sept 26

Newsletter Printing

If you desire to print out a hard copy of this newsletter, use the printer friendly link at top of the left column above. This will bring up a copy that does not have the color backgrounds, saving your print cartridge. Past newsletters are achieved on the "[NEWS](#)" tab on the club website.

Newsletter Deadlines – For this year I plan on starting the newsletter during the second week of the 3rd month of each quarter. So for the first quarter please have all articles for publication to me by March 6, the 2nd quarter by June 8, third quarter by September 7 and 4th quarter by December 7.

Wagon Masters - Please send the stories of your campout soon after its over to John Saylor for this newsletter and also to Bessie Smith for inclusion in the National Magazine.