

# Gold Country Travelers

## Fourth Quarter 2023

Newsletter Published Quarterly by the

[Gold Country Travelers RV Club](#)

**Our 24th Year**

### 2024 Upcoming Outings

**January 10-13: Flag City, Lodi, No-Host**

**February 11-15: Santa Cruz/Monterey Bay KOA  
Watsonville, Mark & Diane Loftus, Wagon Masters**

**March: No Outing Yet**

**April 24-28: Feather Falls KOA, Oroville  
Dick LaVergne, Wagon Master**

**May 14-18: Black Oak RV Park, Tuolumne  
Annette & Mike Babcock / Donna & Gary Thompson,  
Wagon Masters**

**June 4-8: Sugar Barge RV Park, Bethel Island  
Club 25<sup>th</sup> Anniversary, Donna Thompson, Contact**

**July 14-18: Little Bear RV Park, Blairsden  
Ernie Curto, Wagon Master**

**August: Ancient Redwoods RV Park, Redcrest  
Jack Diggins, Wagon Master**

**September 10-14: Vieira's Resort, Isleton  
Debbie & Daniel Cullen / Tim & Beth Forrester,  
Wagon Masters**

**October 11-15: Pioneer RV Park, Quincy  
Dan & Eryn Strickland / Donna & Gary Thompson,  
Wagon Masters**

**November 6-10: Heritage RV Park, Corning  
John & Debbie Marquart / Martin & Zoe Beaton,  
Wagon Masters**

**December 7: Holiday Party, Hillcrest Tap House,  
Antioch, Donna & Gary Thompson, Hosts**

### *President's Message*

Another year has passed and as I write this Christmas is a week and a half away. We can all say this camping year was a success.

To end the year, October 9-13 we ventured to one of our favorite parks, Pioneer RV Park in Quincy. Martin & Zoe Beaton along with John & Debbie Marquardt were our hosts for the week. Morning coffee and pastries were held at John & Debbie's rig and A LOT of the pastries were homemade by Debbie and THEY WERE DELICIOUS. Potluck was great with Tri Tip as our main course, along with the assorted appetizers, sides, and desserts.

The group dinner was held at a great local restaurant, The Paradise Grill who served an abundant of different options with both American and Chinese dishes. Everyone seemed to be very pleased with their choices.

Then, we did an outing that hadn't been offered for a very long time and that was a LADIES ONLY OUTING scheduled for October 22-26 where we traveled to Jackson Rancheria RV Park. There was some controversy as to why we chose that park. The ladies had several good reasons; firstly, it was a park close enough that allowed our spouses/significant others to help us get the rigs up to the park. Secondly and to us more importantly, we felt safe there. Not only does the park have a jitney that drives around in the park to provide transportation to the casino for campers, but they also provided Tribal Security that drove through on a regular basis. We had a Salad Only Potluck and

*(Cont'd, next page)*

## SUNSHINE CARDS

Did you know that your Member-at-Large serves as the Club's "sunshine" person, who sends out cards for members who are facing surgery, suffering from an injury or just going through a rough patch? If you know of anyone who could use a card from the group, contact the Member at Large with details and they will make sure the member is remembered.



## EDITOR'S NOTE

It is with much sadness that this will be my final Newsletter for the Club as I am resigning my position as Member at Large on the GCT Executive Committee. This decision has not come easily and I have truly enjoyed serving you in my various capacities as Secretary (2017), Vice President (2018), and most recently Member at Large (2016, 2019-2023). Please know that I count each of you as a friend who has provided me with care and comfort beyond measure and I look forward to soon being able to resume attending outings and again enjoying your companionship and friendship.

**Lucy Farley**  
**January 15, 2024**

## *President's Message (Cont'd from page 1)*

there were savory pasta type salads, a spinach salad and a delicious Pea Salad. One was a sweet grape salad, that was wonderful. As we sat around the table, we were asked to provide a favorite recipe of ours and bring copies of that recipe for everyone to share.

Our November outing took us to Carmel staying at the Carmel by the River RV Park from the 5th to the 9th. I understand that the group had a very good time with Steven & Sue Patchett and Ernie Curto as wagon masters. There was quite a lot of Pickleball and other fun activities to keep the group busy. The weather seemed to have cooperated for the length of the outing.

I now would like to acknowledge the Executive Committee who served with me this past year. Carl Taylor, our Vice President, CJ Deaton, our Secretary, Bonnie Marquardt, our Treasurer and Lucy Farley, our Member-at-Large and our SUNSHINE PERSON! I would also mention that Ernie Curto keeps our website perking along and makes all the necessary changes and additions that keep us all on track with outings and pictures.

I'm looking forward to 2024 and all the outings that are being scheduled. Hope to see each of you in 2024.

Happy camping

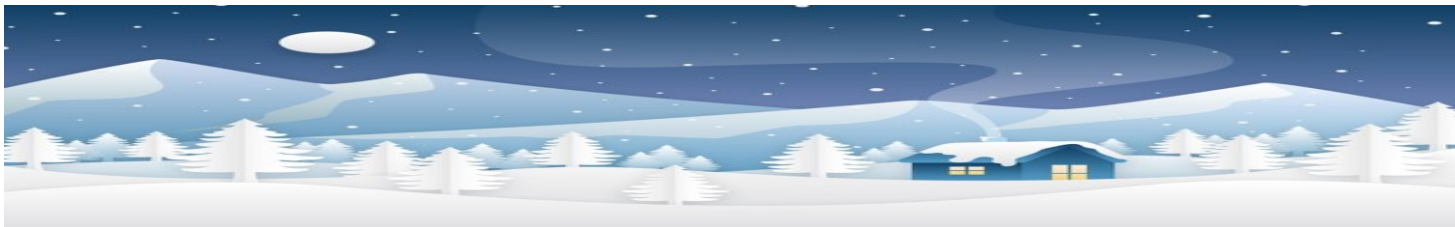
*Donna*

## **A MESSAGE FROM YOUR TREASURER**

It's that time of year when we collect annual dues. Payment should be made by January 31<sup>st</sup> to avoid being late. Please make checks payable to Gold Country Travelers, (not "GCT") to keep our bank happy. If dues are not received by February 29<sup>th</sup>, members will be dropped from the roster and email accounts. **Please send me a check for \$25 at my address below.**

Hope everyone enjoyed a wonderful Christmas in spite of the obstacles we have faced. And Happy New Year to all of you.

**Bonnie Marquardt, Treasurer**  
**7524 Chorus Avenue**  
**Roseville CA 95747**



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## Past Outing Reports

**OCTOBER 9-12**

**PIONEER RV PARK, QUINCY**

**Martin & Zoe Beaton / John & Debbie Marquardt, Wagon Masters**

The October outing was held at the beautiful Pioneer RV Park in the small town of Quincy. The fall colors were all around us and the feel of fall was definitely in the air. There were many crisp, cool mornings and warm sunny afternoons to visit and enjoy each other's company. The Beatons, Patchetts, and Jack Diggins all arrived early on Sunday, October 8th. It was a beautiful warm day and a few of us went to the Polka Dot Frosty for dinner. Then, back to camp for a nice fire.

Monday afternoon was filled with excitement and warm smiles as everyone arrived at the park. There were a total of 13 RVs, 24 members, and many four-legged pups. Attending the outing were the following members: Martin & Zoe Beaton, John & Debbie Marquardt, Jack Diggins, Gary & Donna Thompson, Dick LaVergne, John & Wanda Wingerter, Jim & Bonnie Marquardt, Carl & Karen Taylor, CJ & Cathy Deaton, Dan & Eryn Strickland, Tim & Beth Forrester, Vivian Beckham (Tim's mom), Steve & Susan Patchett, and Dan & Debbie Cullen.

Most members made it to the park safely and without any issues, except for Dick LaVergne. He took the scenic route and had mechanical issues with his brakes. The Patchetts, Tim Forrester and Dan Cullen all loaded up and went to rescue him. They towed his RV to camp, but the truck was taken to a repair shop in Quincy.

Late Monday afternoon, the Wagon Masters went to check out the clubhouse. It was absolutely perfect for our group pot luck. Upon leaving the club house, we discovered the key was missing. John Marquardt had accidentally misplaced it, but he found it in his RV and all was good. After that, we put a lanyard on the key ring.

Tuesday morning, we all loaded up and went to Feather River College to check out their fish hatchery. Adam Fuller was our guide and he was absolutely amazing. We spent about 45 minutes with Adam and learned a great deal about native California fish. Gary Thompson suggested that we leave Adam with a monetary gift. So, we all opened up our wallets and Gary presented Adam with a very large donation. Great idea Gary!



Each morning John and Debbie Marquardt had hot coffee, delicious cookies, amazing breads, cakes, and other baked goods for us to enjoy in the 32°+ weather. It was pretty cool in the mornings.

Tuesday evening was our Potluck dinner. John and Debbie Marquardt decorated with a cute, cute Halloween theme of gnomes and skulls. Martin Beaton was the master of the barbeque and carved up some amazing tri-tip. In



addition, we had other amazing dishes that made our dinner a success. For dessert we had a little something new, ChocoVine dessert wine with or without a shot of vanilla whipped vodka.



After dinner, everyone played an RV version of "Never, Have I ever..." and Beth was the winner! We all then gathered by the fires that evening to enjoy each other's company.



Wednesday everyone scattered a bit. While some played pickleball or bocce ball, others rode bikes, went for walks around town, or just sat in camp and chased the sun. It was very relaxing!!



Wednesday evening we all loaded up again and drove to La Cabana in Quincy for our group dinner. There was a total of 25 people present. The restaurant offered American, Chinese and Mexican food. Everyone had a very good meal. Once we were all back at camp, we fired up the fire pits.



Thursday was another great day in Quincy. It was a bit cool in the morning, but warmed up later in the day. Some members went to dinner at Martha's and others went to the Quintopia Brewing for a late lunch/early dinner. We gathered by the fire Thursday night one last time.



Friday morning, everyone was up bright and early to start packing up for home. Dick was the last man standing waiting for the repair shop to deliver his truck. And they finally did. He made it home safe and sound.

It was a great outing!

-- The Beatons & Marquardts



**OCTOBER 22-26**  
**LADIES-ONLY OUTING, JACKSON RANCHERA**  
**Donna Thompson, Contact**

The Ladies Only Outing was a rousing success! A total of seven (7) ladies attended: Cathy Deaton, Bonnie Marquardt, Debbie Marquardt, Patty Newton, Karen Taylor, Donna Thompson and a prospective member Virginia Quinn.

I wanted to get to the park early so Gary took me up on Saturday. Sunday late morning and early afternoon the ladies started to arrive. We all sat out for a little while until the rain started and continued into the night. There were times when it came down hard.

Monday morning dawned to a crisp Fall morning with blue skies all around. Most of us started to prepare our salads for our Salad Only Potluck that evening. Later in the morning, Debbie and Bonnie prepared a very nice breakfast with pumpkin muffins and a wonderful breakfast casserole. Afterwards we all went to the kitchen store that is in downtown Jackson.



Around 5:00 we all gathered at my rig, had a few margaritas, and served an array of salads. We had a couple of pasta salads, spinach salad and broccoli and cauliflower salad along with a pea and lettuce salad, a potato salad along with a dessert salad made with fresh grapes. We also decided it would be fun to have a recipe exchange. Each lady brought 6 copies of her individual recipe and shared a copy with each of us. Karen had found some Fall themed potholders and attached her recipe for everyone.

Tuesday late morning, Carol Brown came up to spend the day. We all traipsed over to the casino for little bit of gambling (no one won) and we had lunch at Margaret's Café. Later in the afternoon, Carol bid us good-bye and the rest of the day and evening we just relaxed and sat around the firepits and enjoyed the company.

A couple of the husbands had planned on coming up on Wednesday afternoon to enjoy a bit of camping and to assist with breaking down the rigs on Thursday morning. Jim and John Marquardt and Dan Newton arrived late in the morning. I was sitting at my kitchen table, and someone knocked on my



door, I yelled come in, the door opened, and Layla ran in with Teddy behind her. Gary had surprised me by arriving a day early. Both CJ Deaton and Carl Taylor arrived on Thursday morning.

All and all it was a great outing and we plan on doing it again next year. We hope more ladies can join us.

-- Donna Thompson

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**NOVEMBER 6-10**  
**CARMEL-BY-THE-RIVER RV PARK**  
**Steve & Susan Patchett / Ernie Curto, Wagon Masters**

Steve and Susan Patchett and Ernie Curto were co-wagon masters for the fabulous November outing to the Carmel-by-the-River RV park. We had six rigs at the park with Dan and Debbie Cullen staying at another park within the area. The other people who attended were Tim and Beth Forrester, Dick LaVergne, Yvonne Colins, Bill Morgado, Ed Fernandez and Violet Ask-Young.

The Patchetts and I came in two days early to see the sites and to make sure everything was set up in advance of the other members' arrivals. On **Saturday** we toured the Tor House where the California poet Robinson Jeffers lived. This house was built mostly by himself from large rocks that were brought up from the nearby ocean. If you are ever in Carmel, this is a must see. <https://www.torhouse.org>



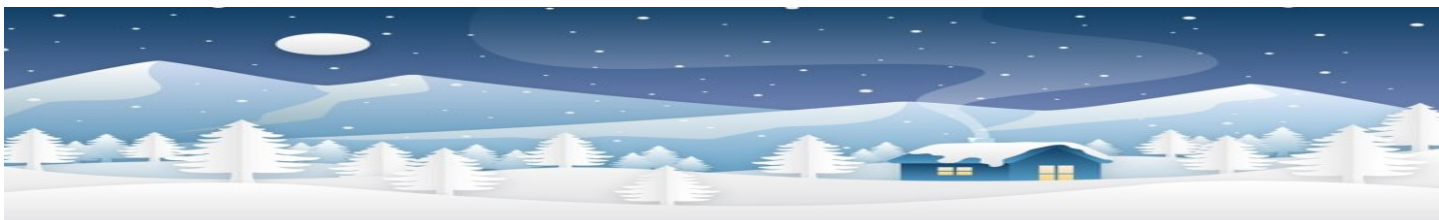
**Sunday morning**, the Patchetts and I hiked along the coast at Point Lobos State National Reserve. This is a great place to hike, with lovely ocean views and a variety of birds.

In the evening, we had a meet and greet and ice cream with the other members who had arrived that day and after the ice cream, we played pin-pong.



On **Monday**, we had a pot luck with the Patchetts barbecuing some great tri-tips. There was the usual array of other delicious food and desserts. Susan Patchett gave prizes for the most correct answers to questions about RV history and facts. It was a fun game.





**Tuesday**, the Forresters, Dick Lavergne, Yvonne Collins, Bill Morgado, the Patchetts and I went to the TreeHouse in Carmel for a group dinner which was held in a private room. The food was fantastic and everyone left happy and satisfied. The Cullens also came to visit us at the park.



On **Wednesday**, we had a group outing to the Monarch Grove Butterfly Sanctuary Park in Carmel where you can see the butterflies' winter habitat and learn how they migrate over several generations.



That evening, a group of us went to the Baja Cantina & Grill for dinner. The power at the restaurant went out towards the end of our meal and we finished eating the by the light of electric lanterns. By the time we returned to our rigs, electricity in the area was still off for the next few hours. And on **Thursday**, we all headed for home.

-- Ernie Curto

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## DECEMBER 9 AVIATORS RESTAURANT, SACRAMENTO Donna & Gary Thompson, Hosts

Twenty-seven of our members gathered at the Aviators Restaurant located at the Executive Airport in Sacramento for our annual Holiday Party. The good thing was that this year the weather cooperated without rain and high winds that had plagued us the last 2 or so years. Those in attendance were Hank Coldani & Mati Clark, Eryn & Dan Strickland, John & Wanda Wingerter, Jack Diggins, David Lee and his son Jeff Lee, Susan & Steve Patchett, Yvonne Collins, Tim & Beth Forrester, Daniel & Debbie Cullen, Ernie Curto & a friend, Jim & Bonnie Marquardt, Carol Brown, CJ & Cathy Deaton, Carl & Karen Taylor, along with Gary and me.



Karen & Carl and Gary & I arrived ahead of everyone else to add a little bit of festive cheer and add decorations on the tables. The club provided a cake to be served after our delicious lunch the restaurant provided.

We were served buffet style with an assortment of wonderful salad, mashed potatoes, buttered pasta along with roasted tenderloin, fried chicken, and the most scrumptious salmon. The salmon was so popular with the group the restaurant owner/ manager, Chick, made us a second batch.



Again, as in years past, we collected TOYS 4 TOTS for the Sacramento Sheriff's Office. CJ, who has worked with the Sac Sherriff's organization for many years, was overwhelmed by the generosity of the group and not only the number of gifts but the amazing array toys that were donated. I think we will continue this tradition for many years to come.



I have a bit of sadness to report regarding the Aviator Restaurant, Sacramento County and the Airport's Board of Directors have decided to possibly not renew the existing lease. So again, we are on the prowl to find a new venue. I already have some very good feelers out there and as soon as I nail something down it will be announced on the 2024 outing section of our website.

-- Gary & Donna Thompson

## UPCOMING 2024 OUTING

### February 11-15, 2024

### Mark & Diane Loftus, Wagon Masters



**Santa Cruz/Monterey Bay KOA**  
1186 San Andreas Rd, Watsonville, CA 95076  
Phone: 800-562-7701

Fifteen sites have been reserved at a rate of \$85.75 per night. Make reservations through the park and let the Wagon Masters know your site number. See park website for cancellation policy.





## Club Officers and Contacts 2023

**President**  
**Donna Thompson**  
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**Vice-President**  
**Carl Taylor**  
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**Secretary**  
**C.J. Deaton**  
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**Treasurer**  
**Bonnie Marquardt**  
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**Member-at-Large**  
**Lucy Farley**  
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**Website**  
**Ernie Curto**

The *Gold Country Travelers RV Club* is a non-brand specific club. Members own campers, travel trailers, 5th wheels and motor homes of many different makes.

Our members volunteer to take turns as wagon masters on a monthly basis. We have an outing once a month, January through November. In December we celebrate the year with a lunch at a local restaurant.

We sometimes take extended trips to places such as Quartzsite, Yuma and Oregon. We are all about having fun, fellowship and just relaxing at our campsites.

Our members share travel stories and maintenance and repair ideas they have learned from experiences. The cooks in the Club share recipes and cooking stories. Our quarterly newsletter and website keep members informed of upcoming and past activities.

**Newsletter Published Quarterly. Submit Articles to Member at Large**

**Wagon Masters** should send a story of their outings as soon as possible after the event is complete.

**Tech Tips, Recipes** and other items to publish can be sent anytime and will be included in upcoming newsletters.



## Gold Country Travelers RV Club

<http://www.goldcountrytravelers.com>

Prospective Member Information

Name \_\_\_\_\_

Spouse \_\_\_\_\_ Date \_\_\_\_\_

Address \_\_\_\_\_

City, State, Zip \_\_\_\_\_

Phone: Home \_\_\_\_\_

Cell 1 \_\_\_\_\_ Cell 2 \_\_\_\_\_

Email 1: \_\_\_\_\_

Email 2: \_\_\_\_\_

RV Type: 5th Wheel [ ] MH [ ] Travel Trailer [ ] Camper [ ]

RV Length \_\_\_\_\_ No. of Slides \_\_\_\_\_ Slides Curbside \_\_\_\_\_

Anniversary (month & day) \_\_\_\_\_

Birthdays (month & Day)

His \_\_\_\_\_ Hers \_\_\_\_\_