



[A Chapter of Sunny Travelers International](#)

Gold Country Travelers

e-Newsletter

March 2010

Published Quarterly by the [Gold Country Travelers RV Club](#)

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Richard & Virginia Lee, Wagon
Masters**

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Jackson Rancheria
Canceled**

**May 20-23, Little Bear
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**June 18-20, Cisco Grove
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President's Message

Our Gold Country Traveler's group travel with our RV's for different reasons. Some of us travel to a favorite destination place or campground. Others have hobbies such as rock gathering, quilting, or antiquing which direct our destination in our RV. Some of us take long trips across many states while others take short trips due to time constraints such as work. Whatever the reason for travel, we all have different ideas of what recreation means to us. No matter the differences, we have one common focus in RV'ing and that is the monthly Gold Country Outings where all of us converge at one time or another.



As president, I encourage each of you to include the club outings in your travel plans where feasible when the destination meets your travel needs. We are a successful club because we do make outings and join our friends which build the friendship and camaraderie

within the club.

We have all heard the phrase "use it or lose it". I think that this can apply to us in that we need to keep RV'ing to stay active, young acting and young thinking as we can be.

Thank you all for keeping Marsha and me as active as we can be in our great club!

Happy trails,
Dave

Tech Tips

Birthdays & Anniversaries

2010 Outing Calendar

July 22-25

**Casini Ranch RV Park
Larvergne -Wagon Master**

**Aug 26-29, Dillon Beach
Lee, Wagon Master**

**Sept 23-26 Napa
Watkins & Cooper**

**October 8-10
Durango RV Resort,
Red Bluff
Ha, Wagon Masters**

**November 11-13
JGW RV Park,
Redding,
Poynter, Wagon Masters**

**Dec 4 Christmas Dinner at
Logan's Road House,
Cindy Gore**

Club Officers

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January Outing

Yuma, Arizona, Jan 20-27, 2010

Jane and Murl Poynter and Chuck & Arlys Rogers hosted the Gold Country Travelers at the Arizona Sands RV Park in Yuma, AZ Jan 20-27, 2010. A total of 10 rigs were able to attend. Attending were Ken and Yvonne Collins, John and Betty Diggins, Murl and Jane Poynter, John and Janice Saylor, Bryce and Bessie Smith, Howard and Kathy Stohlman and John and Shirley Watkins. The total included Larry and Maxine Kochi, friends of Jane and Murl as well as Carmen and Aaron Harris, former owners of a Sunnybrook but now owners of a sob. Due to weather the Kuhlmanns were stuck in Sacramento with the wind and rain. The Hitts had to cancel also due to mechanical problems with their truck, the Cousers had to cancel due to work schedules, the McGrews had to cancel due to a schedule conflict and the Isolass had to cancel due to medical considerations.

The Poynters and friends arrived on Jan 9 due to cold and bad weather in New Mexico, so they came in early. The Collins, Saylor, Smiths and Harris' arrived on Jan 19. The Diggins and Stohlmanns arrived on Jan 20. The Rogers did not park at the RV Park as they have a winter home and RV Spot located in the Foothills. A welcome to Yuma Happy Hour was held on Jan 20 and some of the various things to do were discussed as well as a discussion about visiting and shopping in Mexico. Unfortunately the rains from California came to Yuma on Thursday, Jan 21. Most folks stayed in and listened to the



rain. Almost the entire year's rainfall fell on Thursday and Friday. Folks went shopping on Saturday at the Arizona Market Place, a very large outdoor market. Many treasures were bought at the market place.

Saturday evening Jane and Murl hosted a pot luck dinner at the recreation room at the RV Park with Jane providing the lasagna. Happy Hour started at 5. Chuck's barbershop quartet entertained the group for about 30 minutes. Then all enjoyed the dinner. Sunday was another shopping day at the market place and even more treasures were found.

A large group went to Mexico for shopping and lunch. Chuck and Arlys accompanied the group as they are quite familiar with the Los Algodones shops and such. Again, numerous treasures were found, especially at the Mine, a shop where the jewelry is handmade and is of very good quality. Bryce and Bessie may have set a record for the group with their purchases. She got some very nice and beautiful jewelry.

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**Newsletter Published
Quarterly. Submit articles
to John Saylor**
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A dinner was held at the Yuma Landing, a well known restaurant in Yuma on Monday evening. A great time and meal was had by all. Some of us were a bit tired from our shopping trip to Mexico!

Tuesday the Rogers hosted a happy hour and dinner at their residence in the Foothills. Pizza and salad was provided by the Rogers while other folks brought appetizers. Everyone enjoyed the visit to the Foothills. A fire was provided to keep up the Gold Traveler tradition of having a camp fire.

Wednesday, Jan 27 some folks left to visit other areas of AZ or go home. The Collins, Poynters, Harris' and Kochi's stayed over a few more days. Unfortunately the Harris' new rig had numerous water leaks at the slides due to faulty seals installed at the factory, but there is a dealer for their rig here in Yuma and their rig was repaired there.

February Outing - 49er RV Park

Our Feb. 'Round-Up' was held at the 49er RV park in Plymouth, CA the 25th through the 28th. The park is very nice and accommodating. We were able to use the clubhouse anytime during



that weekend. Because the weather was a bit cool and some rain, it was nice to use the clubhouse for our Friday 'happy hour'.

On Friday afternoon David Lee had arranged for a wine tour at Montevina Winery, which was nice. On Saturday evening we held our 'Chuck-wagon Dinner', complete with fresh greens (and additional toppings), 'road-kill stew' and hot buttered rolls to 'sop' up the drippins. For dessert we had 'dump' cake with whip cream.

Dinner was followed by a fun time playing 31.

On Sun. AM we again gathered in the clubhouse for coffee, orange juice, hot cinnamon rolls, fresh fruit, muffins and mandarin oranges (yummy).

Thank you to all those who attended and we missed you to those who didn't.

Wagon Masters, Jerry and Maryan Billips

Quartzsite Experience

While making plans to attend the week long outing in Yuma, Arizona, John and Shirley were talking about their experiences camping at Quartzsite. As we talked, several others seemed interested in stopping at Quartzsite on the way to Yuma. We do not have a generator and have done very little dry camping and never in a place in the desert with 30,000 other RVers! Well, we decided to try it. We arrived in Quartzsite on Saturday, January 16, meeting Bryce at the Shell Station. Bryce had been there almost a week at this time with John & Shirley. We followed Bryce on a frontage road heading East of the town. Then we turned off on a dirt trail winding out through sage brush, through a couple of washes and past other RVers parked where ever they desired! I was beginning to wonder if I could ever find my way out of here or even find my own rig. We finally got to the spot where John & Shirley and Bryce & Bessie were camped. What a time we had. John and Shirley acted as our personal guides taking to all the best places to buy that one of kind item at the big RV Tent, flea market areas. Sunday Aaron and Carmen joined up with us in their new rig. We met several other campers in our



area who John and Shirley knew from last year. The nights were still and camp fires the best. We did mini-potlucks, barbequing hamburgers, went out for Mexican food and had lunches at the flea market. We had a few small showers of rain but nothing heavy. The sunsets were gorgeous.

John Watkins brought his RC airplane and was experimenting with a video camera attached to the bottom of the plane, only to have no pictures when it landed. He finally found the problem and got some great views from the air of our rigs and neighbors. By Tuesday morning my tanks were almost full, the water was almost empty but the four golf cart batteries did their duty and were still at 12 volts. Didn't need a generator.

We left that day for Yuma for the club outing. Thanks to John and Shirley for their hospitality, we had a great time and would do it again.

John & Janice Saylor

Beyond Yuma John & Betty Diggins

Arizona Trip: January 17 through February 11, 2010

This was the first long trip out of California for Betty, Mandy (dog), I and with our Sunset Creek from Sunnybrook.

January 17: stopped at Castiac Lake RV Park. Lots of rain, mud, and wind.

January 18, to Jan 20: Stayed at Blythe/Colorado KOA. Mandy loved the site, especially Camp K-9. We went to Quartzite for the RV show. Enjoyable day and found presents for the kids and trailer.

January 20 – January 27: Spent time in Yuma with the Gold Country Travelers. A great time was had by all. Mandy did not like walking on the rocks but she loved walking the dirt path by the canal to the rear of the trailer park.

January 27 – January 29: Stayed at Apache Junction KOA (East side of the Phoenix metropolitan area.) We visited our older daughter's husband's parents in Tempe. We spent a day at the Desert



Botanical Gardens and the Phoenix Zoo. We spent 4 -5 hours at each location. The Zoo and the Garden were fantastic. We loved both places.

January 30 – Feb 1: We stayed at the Camp Verde RV Resort: We went to Montezuma's Castle and Montezuma's Well. Both spots were very cool. We spent a day going through Oak Creek canyon and sight seeing in Sedona. The whole area was incredibly beautiful. The red rock was awesome and the snow made a nice contrast to the red rocks. We saw Fort Verde State Park. Nice little historical site.

Feb 2: Stayed at Campground Buena Tierra at Casa Grande. I thought this was a very nice campground. We visited the Casa Grande Ruins National Monument. I was disappointed especially after seeing Montezuma's Castle. To each his own I guess.

February 3 – February 5: Stayed at the Benson KOA. The first day it rained and poured gallons. We did not realize we had a brick patio until the water receded at the end of the second day. We went to Kartchner Caverns and they were awesome even though it was still raining. How wet can you get in a cave anyway. The next day we went to Tombstone. The court house was very educational. The town was fun to walk around. Betty and I had fun eating and taking pictures in Big Nose Kate's saloon.

February 5 – February 9: We stayed at the Beaudry RV Resort: This is a nice place but expensive if you did not use all the facilities. The first day we went to the Titan Missile Museum. Pretty scary thinking there were 58 silos, each with a 9 megaton warhead ready to launch 24/7 365 days a year. This is the only site left and is a museum. We next saw Mission San Xavier Del Bac. This church is called the "Sistine Chapel of North America." What a beautiful Church. The next day we went to Bio-Sphere 2. This was very interesting and our guide was hilarious. This was educational and fun. We next went to the Pima Air and Space Museum. They had hundreds of planes and helicopters on display. I especially enjoyed the B-17 390th Group Museum and the Space exhibit complete with a moon rock.

We celebrated Betty's Birthday on February 7th. There was some other event called the Super Bowl that thought it was more important. We went out to the Desert Diamond Casino. Betty gambled and I bet on a sure thing. I knew if I gave the bartender \$3.00 he would always give me a beer. The casino had an excellent steak house with delicious food. On February 8th it rained so hard, we hung around the campground all day. There was so much rain, the dog park Mandy liked to run in was so flooded, there were three ducks swimming in the park. On our last day, we went to the Arizona-Sonora Desert Museum. What a neat place. There was an incredible variety of reptiles, animals and botanical plants to see. This was one of the best things we saw in Arizona.

February 9: We stayed at the Indian Wells RV Park. Sites were small and tight. There was lots of rain. We ate out at the Augustine Indian Casino. The food was good; the prices were reasonable.

February 10: We stayed at the San Luis RV Resort in Gustine. Mandy had a ball running around chasing her ball. She started to roll around on the grass which I thought was hilarious until she came back covered in mud. We celebrated my birthday with dinner at Anderson's Split Pea soup in Santa Nella. The food was good; the soup was awesome.

February 11: We made it home after 26 days, 3200 miles, with no serious problems and one very tired dog.

Upcoming Outings

Mar 25-29, Bodega Bay - Richard & Virginia Lee, Wagon Masters. By the time you read this, this one will be happening.

Apr 8-11, Jackson Rancheria, Ed and Joan Fernandez, Wagon Masters. Outing was canceled due to not enough rigs signed up.

May 20-23 - Little Bear RV Park, Blairsden - Dick & Carol Bilhiemer, Wagon Masters. Full hookups, \$32.00 a night, 15 sites have been reserved. Deposit of \$32.00 required by April 15. Contact Dick or Carol at (209)267-1936.

June 18-20 - Cisco Grove RV Park- Ken & Cricket Couser, Wagon Masters (916)967-7404.

TECH TIPS

Stuck Dump Valve

Most of our rigs have remote cable operated waste water valves. On the recent Plymouth trip one of my grey water valves jammed in the open position. I took it to my local RV repair shop who had to drop the "belly tank" to get access to the valve. (Actually it gave access to all three waste water valves as well as fresh water tank plumbing - good thing to know!) Fortunately I stopped by after the technician had removed the valve and cable assembly and was getting ready to order a \$70 replacement. The valve appeared to be working fine but the cable was bound up for some unknown reason which he could not find. As an engineer I always get troubled if I cannot find the cause of a mechanical failure. After inspecting the assembly closely myself I noticed that the shaft at the end of the cable at the handle end was not round but six sided. This six sided shaft slides in a six sided guide that is fastened to a vertical support. Somehow the shaft had rotated in the guide so that it became bound up when the six flat areas of the shaft did not line up with the six flat areas of the guide. Two pliers quickly fixed the problem. The cost of a new part was saved but there was still a \$200 bill for labor of removing and reinstalling the valve.

Now one of two things or a combination of both caused the problem. While pulling on the handle I may have rotated it enough to get the sliding shaft out of alignment with the guide. Or the guide may have come loose and rotated (the locking nut was loose). Or a combination of the two.

Bottom line.....When you pull your handle out, be sure you do not rotate it at all and it would be beneficial to put some grease on the exposed shaft before you push it back in maybe once a year.

Ed

Replacing Folding Step

I recently destroyed the folding steps on our rig. Don't ask how. Our RV repair shop showed me a retail catalog cost of \$257 plus labor.

Turns out that removing the damaged stairs is relatively simple. About a 15 minute job. Also turns out that Hickory Springs who manufactures the steps will sell them direct to anyone. I was quoted a price of \$158 including shipping and tax free. Two weeks later I spent about 20 minutes installing the new steps myself. Simply place them on top of a floorjack, roll it in place, jack up the steps and attach four bolts. Savings about \$200!

Ed

Just passing on.....

The March or April Trailer Life magazine has an easy suggestion about a “reminder” attachment to notify drivers if they try to pull away with the RV steps down. Simply, it’s the same as the old curb wands that drivers used to attached to their wheel wells to let them know if they’re too close to the curb. For the RV, it would be attached so that it rests on the ground when the steps are down and folds away when the steps are raised. The short tip also suggested using a cut-up coat hanger for the same result.

Dick

Birthdays & Anniversaries

Happy Birthday to:

Happy Anniversary to:

Richard Lee	8-Jan
Ken Couser	23-Jan
Betty Diggins	7-Feb
Jack Diggins	10-Feb
Cricket Couser	15-Feb
Ed Fernandez	20-Feb
John Saylor	22-Feb
Christy Nyland	23-Feb
Roberta Cooper	6-Mar
Jo-Ann Kuhlman	10-Mar
Janice Saylor	15-Mar
John Puthuff	18-Mar
Chuck Rogers	19-Mar
Carol Bilheimer	31-Mar

Aaron & Carmen Harris	22-Jan
John & Karen, Puthuff	30-Jan
John & Janice, Saylor	30-Mar

Newsletter Notes

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 third week of the 3rd month of each quarter. So for the first quarter please have all articles for publication to me by March 15, the 2nd quarter by June 14, third quarter by September 20 and 4th quarter by December 20.

Wagon Masters - Please send the stories of your campout soon after its over to John Saylor (jsaylor@surewest.net) for this newsletter and also to Bessie Smith (besseclark@aol.com) for inclusion in the National Magazine.