

Gold Country Travelers

May – August 2021

Newsletter Published by the
[Gold Country Travelers RV Club](#)
 Our 22nd Year

2021 Outings

February 8-11: Jackson Rancheria, No Host

February 22-26: Benbow KOA, Garberville, No Host

March 22-25: Vineyard RV Park, Vacaville, No Host

April 21-26: Feather Falls KOA, Oroville, Dick LaVergne, Wagon Master

May 21-25: Pioneer RV Park, Quincy, Jim Ayers & Lucy Farley, Wagon Masters

June 11-14: Smithwoods RV Park, Felton, Ernie Curto, Wagon Master

July 18-22: Little Bear RV Park, Blairsden, Bill & Anne Tiemeyer/Mark & Dianne Loftus, Wagon Masters

August 16-20: Durango RV Park, Red Bluff, David Lee, Wagon Master

September 19-23: Black Oak Casino RV Park, Tuolumne, Karen & Carl Taylor, Wagon Masters

October 9-13: Angels Camp RV Resort, Jim & Bonnie Marquardt, Wagon Masters

November 8-12: Herb & Carol Brown/C.J. & Cathy Deaton, Wagon Masters

December 11: Holiday Party, Club Pheasant, 4:00 pm, Gary & Donna Thompson, Wagon Masters

Outings in yellow are covered in this Newsletter.

President's Message

The second part of the year is upon us and what fun we had during the first few months of 2021. We all know 2020 was very difficult for most of us with very few outings, but this year almost every month was filled.

In May we all trekked up to one of our favorite parks in Quincy, CA with Lucy Farley and Jim Ayers as wagon masters, who always know how to entertain. They had a variety of different meatballs as the potluck main dish and the rest of us filled in with yummy salads and desserts. Bocce Ball was the sporting entertainment, and, of course, the evenings were filled with fun, laughter and the obligatory firepits. We welcomed a new member, Hank Coldani, who is from Arnold, CA

June took the group to Smithwoods in the Felton/Santa Cruz Mountains. Ernie Curto was wagon master; although Gary and I didn't attend, reports are that everyone had a very good time.

In July, Little Bear RV Park was on the radar. The hosts for that outing were Bill and Anne Tiemeyer and Mark and Diane Loftus. The weather was beautiful although there was quite a bit of concern about fires raging south of us below Portola, including the Beckwith Fire, which they got under control while we were there. Then the Dixie Fire to the northeast was just starting to spread but despite the fires, we had relatively clear blue skies.

(Cont'd, next page)



As noted on the website list of 2022 Outings, the January and August dates are open and currently have no formal Wagon Master. If you would like to suggest a location to see if anyone is interested, please send out an email to the Club members. We have made a number of great outings in the past where members just gathered together without a formal agenda or official Wagon Master.

If you have signed up to be a Wagon Master in 2022 and you have some reservations about how to conduct the outing, don't fear. The Club has prepared a detailed instructional document titled "10 Easy Steps to Becoming a Wagon Master" that outlines the process.

Please contact Secretary C.J. Deaton or any other Executive Board member for a copy.

President's Message (Cont'd from first page)

David Lee was wagon master for August, and he reserved Durango RV in Red Bluff. A total of 10 rigs were in attendance. The weather was very strange as California battled the wildfires. We were inundated with smoke from almost all of the Northern California fires, which continued to include the Dixie Fire and morphed over into Lassen Federal Park. Again, despite the fires the group had a great time as usual. One thing that was mentioned by David -- after 22 years of hosting the August outing he would not be hosting again, although he would be more than happy to co- wagon master with others.

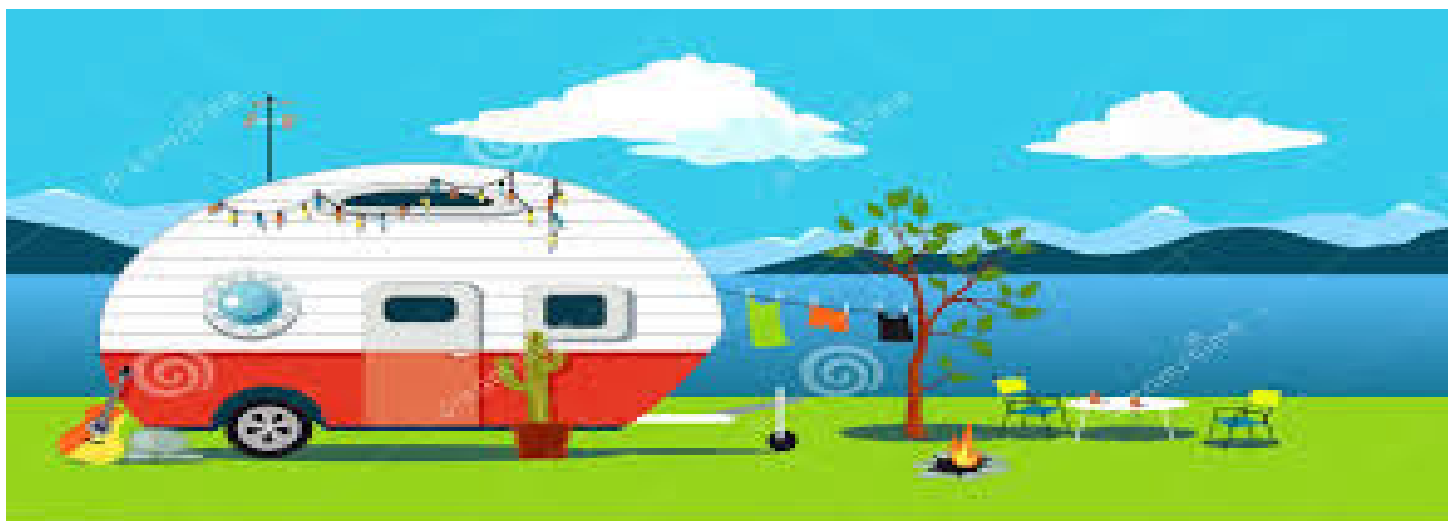
A few things I would like to remind people. When you wagon master an outing, could you please take 10 minutes and do a write up and send it to Lucy for the Newsletter. I know this year our Newsletters have not been as regular as they before for several reasons, but part of the problem is not getting the outing reports in a timely manner. Let's help Lucy by getting your reports to her concisely and quickly. RANT OVER, Thank You.

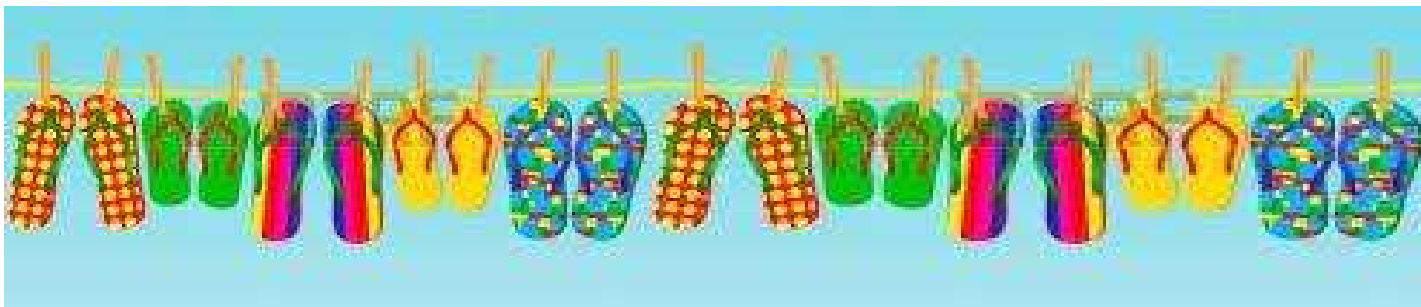
The next few months will take us to Black Oak in Tuolumne with the Taylors, Angels Camp with the Marquardts and then to wrap up the camping year, Jackson Rancheria in Jackson with the Deatons and Browns hosting.

And then, of course, it's the holiday party, where we'll return to the Club Pheasant in West Sacramento on December 11, where Gary and I will be your hosts.

It's been so great to be able to gather together this year after the 2020 pandemic, and I hope to see you all again soon!

Donna





Past Outing Reports

May 21-25

Pioneer RV Park, Quincy

Jim Ayers and Lucy Farley, Wagon Masters

A dozen rigs traveled to the Pioneer RV Park in Quincy for the Club's May outing. Those attending were Herb and Carol Brown, Yvonne Collins, Ernie Curto, C.J. and Cathy Deaton, David Lee, Jim and Bonnie Marquardt, Baird and Kathy McKnight, Steve and Susan Patchett, Carl and Karen Taylor, Gary and Donna Thompson, guest (and new member) Hank Coldani, and wagon masters Jim Ayers and Lucy Farley.



Immediately upon arrival, David Lee toppled off the back of his camper and cracked his noggin open on the asphalt, causing everyone great concern and leaving a pretty nasty wound. He recovered quickly and was able to participate in all activities, to much relief. Hank Coldoni did his best to provide support to both David and Sophie, who happily returned the attention.



The Paradise Grill was the scene on the second night for the group's dinner out, with the Taylors, who arrived that day, coming just in time to join us. We were provided a private dining area but unfortunately it couldn't accommodate all 20 of us, and the Browns and Deatons graciously opted to sit at a table in the main restaurant area. Although you wouldn't know it by the restaurant's name, they served Mexican food that was quite good with very generous proportions.

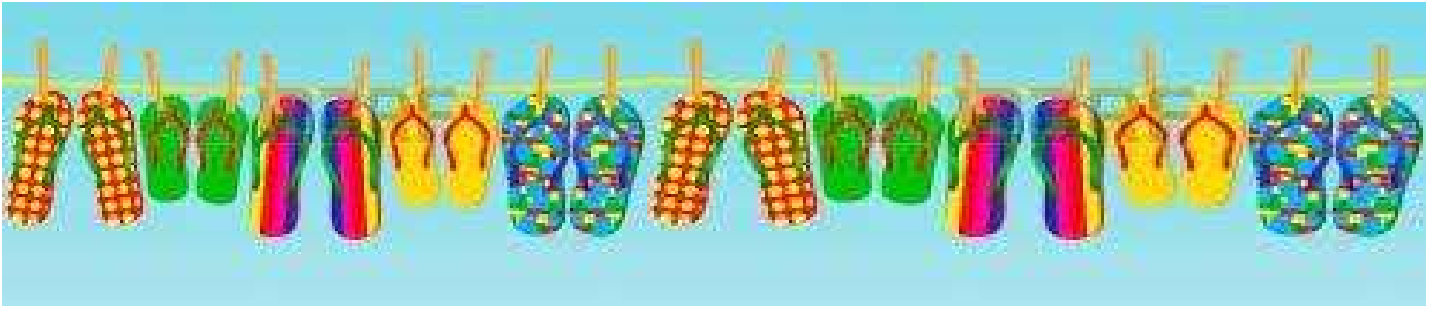


The one factor that is always in question in the Sierras – the weather – was generally beautiful with warm sunny skies (but not exactly warm enough for flip-flops) although we did have a day of high, cool winds (which postponed the potluck from Sunday to Monday night). Although Covid-19 regulations prohibited us from using the clubhouse, we were able to gather around the outdoor eating area, which proved to be very sufficient for our needs. Proving a clubhouse kitchen isn't necessary for good eating, the wagon masters prepared meatballs 3 ways in crockpots and all of the accompaniments were cold salads, appetizers and desserts, for which the men lined up, including Karen Taylor's strawberry shortcake. After dinner, Lucy Farley held a quiz to see who knew the most facts about the month of May, with prizes for those with the most correct answers.



Bocce ball was tops on the entertainment list, with regulation courts available at an adjacent city park. Those who didn't play joined the audience (some caught up on handiwork projects) and rooted for the players.





The main activities were gatherings outside during the day at the wagon master's RV, where assorted breakfast pastries (complimented by muffins from Ernie) were served, and at night with our customary propane "campfires." Cathy bundled up in her cocoon and others brought out their warm jackets and lap blankets.



Ernie brought his drone and flew it briefly around the campfire but it was hindered by area trees.



We bid the Marquardts good-bye as they left one day early. Kathy McKnight sported a special camping shirt on the morning the rest of us departed, and everyone commented on how nice it was to be together again without masks and social distancing requirements, to give and get hugs, and to just feel "normal" again. Everyone exemplified the Club's purpose in love of "glamping" (we can't claim to be "campers" at this stage of our lives) and gathering for social companionship.



JUNE 11-14
Smithwoods RV Park
Ernie Curto, Wagon Master

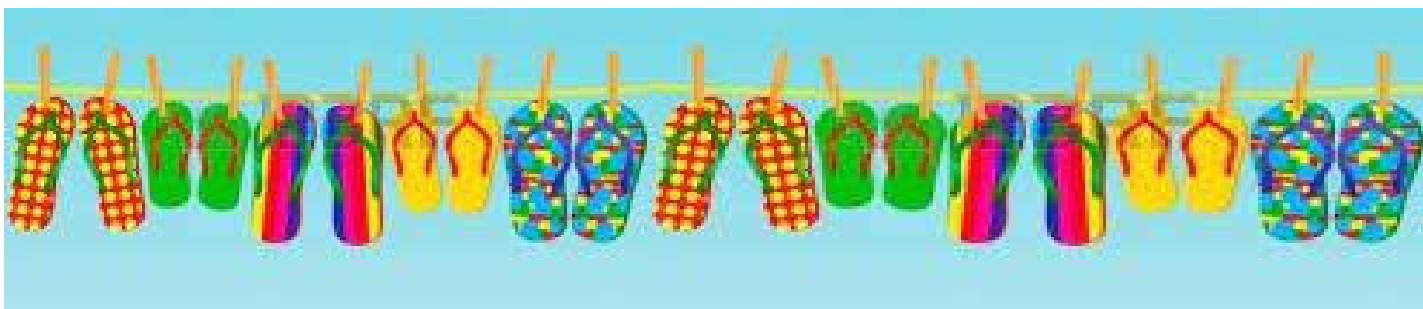
Those attending the outing were Dick LaVergne, Yvonne Collins, Edie Evans, Bonnie and Jim Marquardt, Debbie and John Marquardt, David Lee, Susan and Steve Patchett, Karen and Carl Taylor, Ernie Curto, Wagon master and his guest Melinda Ortiz.

Most of the group signed up for a ride on the Santa Cruz Big Trees & Pacific Railway train from Felton which travels on one of the oldest and most historic railroad lines in California, through the Henry Cowell Redwoods State Park, down the scenic San Lorenzo River Gorge, across a 1909 steel truss bridge and through a tunnel built in 1875 before arriving at Santa Cruz Beach Boardwalk. This has been a Club tradition for outings held at Smithwoods, and reports are that there is always something new to see.



Jim and Bonnie Marquardt, Carl and Karen Taylor, and David Lee posed for a picture oceanside on the pier in Santa Cruz before catching the train for the return trip to Felton.





Following the train ride, the group enjoyed a wonderful Italian dinner at Scopazzi's in Boulder Creek, which has been serving great food for over 100 years.



The potluck was scheduled to be held indoors at the Park's clubhouse, but the group was disappointed to find that Covid-19 restrictions would not permit indoor dining. Being the troopers they are, the attendees gathered picnic tables together around their RVs. The main entrée was Tri-Tip, accompanied as always by appetizers, side dishes, salads and desserts. Everyone agreed that they had a great time and the outdoor atmosphere was not a hindrance.

And as always, there was plenty of time to gather around the firepit – this one in a large pot provided by the park – and yes, most times there was a fire!



JULY 18-22
Little Bear RV Park
Bill & Anne Tiemeyer/Mark & Dianne Loftus, Wagon Masters

Ed, Violet, Steve and Susan played pickle ball.

Gary and Dave won the Bocce ball tournament.

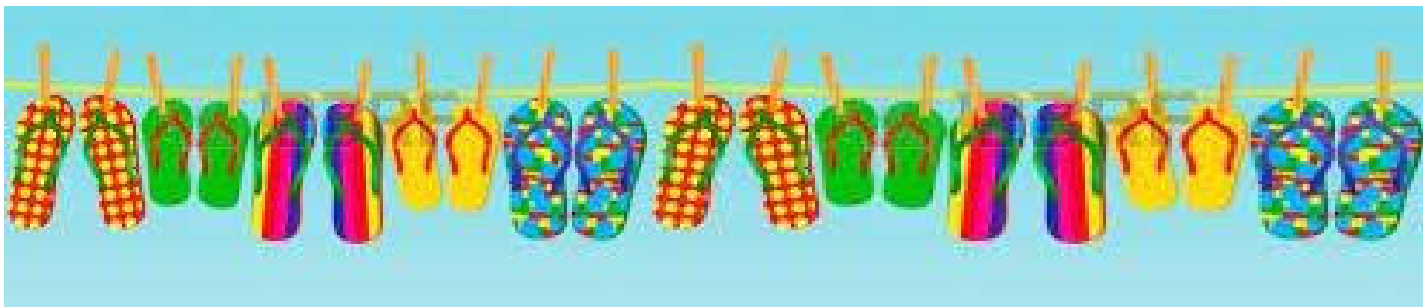


Several folks
hiked to Big
Bear and
Little Bear
Lakes.



The pot luck was wonderful with lots of tasty dishes.





AUGUST 16-20
Durango RV Park
David Lee, Wagon Master

In total we had 10 rigs attend the August outing; David Lee, Gary & Donna Thompson, Mark & Diane Loftus, Bill Tiemeyer, Jack Diggins, Carl & Karen Taylor, Dan & Patty Newton, Jim & Bonnie Marquardt, John & Debbie Marquardt, and Dan & Eryn Strickland, and along with their assorted dogs. On Monday, August 16, all arrived as scheduled except for Mike Diggins and his trusty driver Jack.

On Tuesday, four of the group -- David Lee, Bill Tiemeyer, Mark Loftus and Carl Taylor-- took off for a fishing trip that David promised to be the best EVER. Well, there were no salmon steaks that evening, and the fish were left to live another day, but we were told everyone had a marvelous time.



Tuesday was also the evening of the potluck.

Tri Tip was the main course that was expertly prepared by Mr. Diggins and Mr. Loftus.

The side dishes were as yummy as usual.

Wednesday turned out to be a very relaxing day as there were no scheduled activities.

David made an announcement at the Potluck that after 22 years of hosting August outings he would no longer be hosting any outings, at least by himself, and he would gladly co-host with others.



Throughout the entire week, we were plagued with smoke from all the fires raging through Northern California. During a drive north into Redding the visibility was about a quarter mile. However, we were able to enjoy a beautiful sunset at the park on one of the evenings.



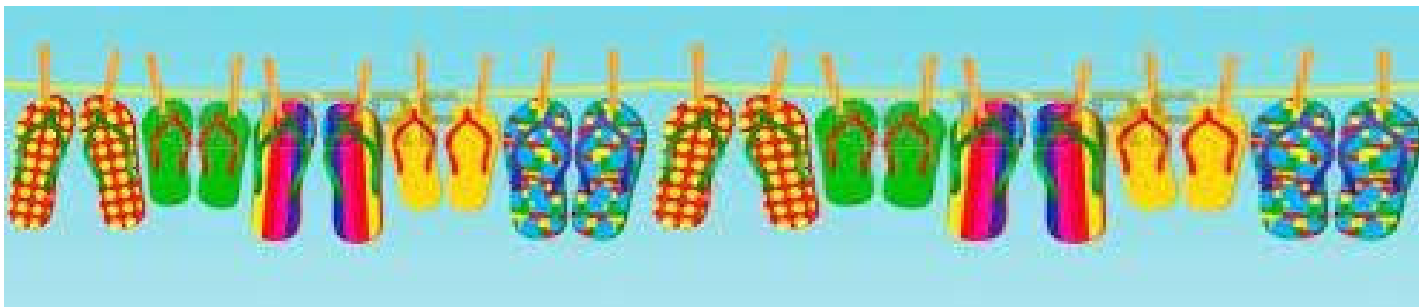
Thursday saw almost the entire group caravanning to New Clairvaux winery. The bartender kept us entertained with stories regarding the winery as it was/is started/run by monks. On the way home many of the group stopped at the Olive Pit in Corning.



Thursday evening, we all gathered at the Green Barn which is a local restaurant that has been doing business since the early 60's. As usual the dinner was delicious and the company delightful.

Friday morning saw us all packing up and heading home until next time. A great time was had by all.

- David Lee, Donna Thompson



2021 Club Officers and Contacts

President
Donna Thompson

Vice-President
Carl Taylor

Secretary
C.J. Deaton

Treasurer
Bonnie Marquardt

Member-at-Large
Lucy Farley

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 leave our rigs at home and celebrate the year 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 technical, maintenance and repair ideas they have learned from experiences. The cooks in the Club share recipes and cooking stories. Our newsletter and website keep members informed of upcoming and past activities.

Submit Articles for Newsletter to Lucy Farley superlucy10@yahoo.com

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 Membership Application

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 _____

