



GOLD COUNTRY TRAVELERS

First Quarter 2024

Newsletter Published Quarterly by the
[Gold Country Travelers RV Club](#)
Our 25th Year

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

Members volunteer to take turns as wagon masters on a monthly basis. Wagon masters choose the location of the outing. We have an outing once a month, January through November. In December we celebrate with a Holiday lunch.

We are all about having fun, fellowship and relaxing on our outings.

CLUB OFFICERS 2024

President

Donna Thompson

Vice-President

Carl Taylor

Secretary

C. J. Deaton

Treasurer

Bonnie Marquardt

Member-at-Large

Jack Diggins

Website

Ernie Curto

President's Message

As we began 2024, we lost a beloved member of the group, David Lee. He and his wife Marsha were founding members of the group in 1999. This was when the group was an off shoot of the National Sunnybrook RV Club. David was a driving force for the club for his entire membership and he will be sorely missed. With David's passing, that leaves us with one last founding member, Ed Fernandez.

Also, as we started 2024, Lucy Farley decided she needed to resign her position of Member at Large. Lucy had been an integral part of the Executive Committee in several positions since 2014. As Member at Large she contributed many hours quarterly to ensure the group had an accurate and easy to read roster. Along with that, she published our quarterly Newsletter. Her additions of camping Meme's and pictures added for a truly entertaining newsletter. She was also our Sunshine Lady. I would like to truly thank her from ALL OF US and how much we appreciated the hard work she put into all these publications on our behalf.

With that, Jack Diggins has volunteered to replace Lucy as Member at Large.

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2024 Outings

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

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

March 10-14: Sugar Barge, Bethel Island, No host

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

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

June 4-8: Sugar Barge RV Park, Bethel Island
Club 25th Anniversary, Donna Thompson Contact

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

August 11-16: Ancient Redwoods RV Park,
Redcrest, Jack Diggins Wagon Master

September 10-14: Viera's Resort, Isleton, Dan &
Debbie Cullen / Tim & Beth Forrester
Co-Wagon Masters

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

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

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

Presidents Message (continued)

Debbie Cullen has volunteered to take up the reins of Sunshine Lady. If you know of anyone who is ill or might be in hospital, please let Debbie Cullen know. I would like to thank both Jack and Debbie for stepping up to take these positions.

I now must mention some housekeeping items. First, if you have any changes to your home address, phone numbers etc. Please let Jack Diggins know so he can make the appropriate changes to the roster. **This is most important if you CHANGE THE TYPE OF RIG you are driving/pulling.** There are times when this information is vital to a wagon master as they are making group reservations. That's why we put that info in the roster.

As members of a club, we all have some responsibilities to the club and to each other. If you have responded to a wagon master that you plan to attend a particular outing and if there are further emails asking for information, **PLEASE RESPOND** in a timely manner. Information that they may ask for is potluck choices, dining out information etc. Also, regarding Potlucks, at the end of the evening and meal **PLEASE** take your leftovers back to your own rig. Don't leave them for the wagon master's to haul back to their rigs.

One more item that needs to be addressed. There are times when a room/clubhouse may not be available to the group; or maybe only available for one night for the potluck.

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PRESIDENT'S MESSAGE CONTINUED

PLEASE check with your wagon master before going down and talking to the management for the use of any of the rooms that happen to be on site. For one, you don't know what kind of deposit the wagon master may have put down for the one night and they might then forfeit any all deposit(s). Or they made a special deal that we would use it only that night and none other. So again, please check with your wagon master on the use of facilities on site. This is only fair, not only to the wagon master hosting that month but to the group as a whole. Thank you.

We have several great outings to look forward to these next 3 quarters. Make sure you check your email for upcoming emails from the wagon masters.

Happy Camping
Donna

PAST OUTING REPORTS

No-Host Outing :Flag City RV Park, Lodi

January 10 – 13, 2024

In January, CJ & Cathy Deaton along with Gary & Donna Thompson traveled all the way to Flag City in Lodi. It took Gary and I about an hour to get there and I believe CJ mentioned basically the same thing for them. This was the 3rd smallest outing in several years, we had almost as many dogs as we had people, 4 people and 3 dogs.

The weather was somewhat reasonable, chilly with a little rain in the evening. None of us volunteered to sit out in the evening around the fire pit as it got too cold.

The draw to going to Flag City was 3 nights for the price of 2 nights. Turned out to be a good deal. The 4 humans left the dogs back at the rigs and went to dinner at Applebee's one of the evenings. The 4 of us visited the Calivines Winery & Olive Mill one afternoon along with a visit to the local Goodwill store.

Not a lot is going on in Lodi this time of year. But it was nice getting out in the rigs and just relaxing.

SANTA CRUZ / MONTEREY BAY KOA

February 11-15, 2024

Mark and Diane Loftus, Wagon Masters

This outing to the Monterey area was unintentionally planned for arrival on Super Bowl Sunday. (Lesson learned... never do THAT again!) Five rigs arrived on the 10th in order to be ready: Dan and Debbie Cullen, Steve and Susan Patchett, Dick LaVergne, Jack Diggins, and Mark and Diane Loftus. On Sunday, more arrived: John and Debbie Marquardt, Jim and Bonnie Marquardt, CJ and Cathy Deaton, Bill and Anne Tiemeyer, Tim and Beth Forrester, Ken and Cricket Couser, Dan and Jeanie Radler, and Carl and Karen Taylor. Because the Super Bowl Watch Party promised by the park never materialized, quick greetings were made before everyone disappeared to watch the exciting, but disappointing (at least for most) game. A small group emerged afterwards to lament about the final score around the fire pits. The Thompsons joined us the next morning as the lament continued.

Although the weeks before and after the trip brought atmospheric rivers to the area, we got really lucky because most of our days were clear and breezy. Small groups explored Monterey, Capitola, and Santa Cruz. Mike the Dog enjoyed his walk to Manresa State Beach. Several people went biking and really enjoyed the Fort Ord area. A couple of afternoons, a group gathered to play cards. Unfortunately the wagon masters were stuck in camp dealing with a mobile repair guy to fix our broken leaf springs. In general, the trip was slow and relaxed with daytime hours.

KOA Watsonville doesn't have a "clubhouse," but they allowed us to use their "Snack Shack Activity Area" for our Mardi Gras themed potluck on Monday night. Gold, green, and purple décor with beads and masks adorned the area. Some of us adorned ourselves with beads to celebrate. As usual, everyone contributed delicious appetizers, sides, and desserts to go with the main dish of pork and beef stews, cold weather comfort food. That night there was lots of laughter and conversation around 6 blazing fire pits.

Tuesday evening most of the group had dinner out at the Upper Crust in Santa Cruz. Italian food, salads, sandwiches, and "all you can eat pizza" were selected and pre-ordered by attendees. Unfortunately, because it is such a tiny restaurant, we weren't all able to sit together. Later, back at the park, everyone enjoyed time around the campfires.

The last afternoon was windy and rainy, so those who stayed in camp retreated to their rigs. When the rain stopped and the infallible internet predicted an hour or two before it restarted, part of the group lit the fires and gathered for a final evening together. But 15 minutes later, the skies opened, and the rain started, so the trip ended with everyone hiding inside.

No Host Outing: Sugar Barge RV Resort & Marina, Bethel Island

March 10-14, 2024

In March, since no member stepped up to host an outing for the month, Sugar Barge was chosen as a location for a No Host Outing due to its central location.

Donna & Gary Thompson, with Teddy and Layla, Mike Diggins with Jack, attended.

Despite the predictions of a great deal of rain, it only rained two times. Sunday night it rained from midnight until 2:00 a.m.. It rained from 9:00 p.m. Monday until about 0930 a.m. Tuesday. The rest of the time, the weather was very pleasant.

Mike enjoyed many walks; then his doppelganger appeared. The doppelganger looked so much like Mike, I stopped to see if Mike got out and why a woman was walking Mike.

We spent relaxing days and enjoyed the fire pits at night. On Tuesday we went to the Big Break Regional Shoreline and Visitor Center. The Visitor Center was closed but we walked to the Delta Discovery Experience which is a diorama of the delta. Very cool. We then walked to the Fishing / Observation Deck on the Delta. On our way back we stopped at La Copa Restaurant in Oakley for lunch. The food was good and the prices were reasonable.

The trip was a very pleasant four days.

Mike (the wonder dog) and his secretary Jack

