



## **GOLD COUNTRY TRAVELERS**

Second Quarter 2024

Newsletter Published Quarterly by the  
[Gold Country Travelers RV Club](#)  
**Our 25<sup>th</sup> Year**

The Gold Country Travelers RV Club is a non-brand specific club. Members own campers, travel trailers, 5<sup>th</sup> 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**

April - June 2024

I can't believe that half the year is over, and we are smack dab into summer of 2024. This past quarter took us to some exciting places. In April, the group headed to Oroville, which we have been visiting for several years. I heard the outing was a rousing success as Gary and I had to miss that one; at this outing we had a new couple join our ranks, Ray and Nancy Mialovich who hail from the San Jose area. Welcome Ray & Nancy. Dick LaVergne was our wagon master and did a marvelous job of making everyone feel welcome.

In May, Gary and I hosted the group up in Tuolumne at Black Oak Casino RV Park. We had a total of 11 rigs and 20 people. Tim & Beth Forrester, Jack Diggins, CJ & Cathy Deaton, Ken & Cricket Couser, John & Debbie Marquardt, Jim & Bonnie Marquardt, Carl & Karen Taylor, Martin & Zoe Beaton, Dan & Debbie Cullen, Virginia Quinn and Gary and me. The weather was perfect, not too hot or cold. Several of us took a few afternoons to lounge in the pool, great for relaxing. Some meandered up to the casino and paid their yearly dues, except Zoe who won. They group also attended a play at the Sierra Rep Theater, The Drowsy Chaperone. Everyone enjoyed it immensely.

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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 25<sup>th</sup> 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, Aviator's  
Restaurant, Sacramento Executive Airport  
Donna & Gary Thompson Hosts

## **Presidents Message** (continued)

Instead of using the club house, we decided to have a BBQ at our rig and eat under the EASY-UPS. Martin and Jack BBQ's burgers and hot dogs. Others brought the fixin's along with delicious sides and desserts. Ed Fernandez and Violet Ask-Young joined us for Potluck that evening, as they live about 3 miles from the park.

The June outing was a very special outing for the entire club as we celebrated the club's 25<sup>th</sup> Anniversary. We went to Bethel Island and stayed at Sugar Barge RV Park. The highlight was the ability to have our celebration dinner at the Sugar Barge Restaurant. There were 20 rigs and 42 people at the outing. The restaurant did a marvelous job of helping us celebrate. They provided a menu for the group to choose from ahead of the dinner, Braised Short Ribs, Salmon, Chicken Marsala and Pasta.

During the dinner celebration we honored our last founding member Ed Fernandez. Ed has been a mainstay with the group for the past 25 years. With that, the club honored him with a wooden plaque, "GOLD COUNTRY TRAVELERS, Est 1999, Ed Fernandez, Founding Member".

The next few months takes us to a couple of old favorites and to one new park that I don't think the group has ever been to. In July, we trek back up to the Graeagle area and visit Little Bear, with Ernie Curto as our wagon master. In August, Jack Diggins takes us once again up to Ancient Redwoods located near Redcrest along the Avenue of the Giants. In September we are back in the Delta area of Isleton at Vierra's RV Park with the Forrester's and the Cullen's as wagon masters. (Continue page 3)

## **PRESIDENT'S MESSAGE CONTINUED**

This next year, we only have 2 outings scheduled, April at Feather Falls with the Couser's as wagon masters and May at Black Oak with the Deaton's and Taylor's as wagon masters. We need folks to step up. We have several folks who have not wagon mastered in quite a long time or have never wagon mastered. It's time to start the planning process. As soon as you chose a park and a date, please contact Ernie Curto so he can place it on the website calendar. Please be aware of the dates the scheduled month prior and the month after so we aren't necessarily two weeks between outings.

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

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## **PAST OUTING REPORTS**

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### **FEATHER FALLS CASINO KOA**

#### **APRIL 24 – 28**

The GCT **April Feather Falls KOA Outing in Oroville** was great fun for all! We had a tremendous group with the **Cousers, Newtons, Cullens, Marquardts X2, Forresters, Collins & Morgado, Deatons, Farley & Ayers, Diggins, Mialovichs, Taylors, Wingerter** and **LaVergne** joining in, beginning on Wednesday, April 24<sup>th</sup>.

First up was our Wednesday afternoon “**Margaritas and Munchies**” Happy Hour and lots of sipping and catching up, especially welcoming new members Nancy and Ray Mialovich and having Wanda and John Wingerter sign up as our newest! Welcome! Nancy and Ray have another great adventure to share.... Just ask them about their travels to 24 Major League Baseball parks. Yep. Fascinating! A more minor, but meaningful event was the introduction of my partner, Joose's labrador, Reilly. He had just flown 3,000 miles from Tampa, Florida to join us and had a woofers wonderful time.

On Thursday, we enjoyed the many selections from the casino's Dreamcatcher Buffet. Capping off the buffet was an incredible selection of pies and cakes, as well as ice cream with toppings. Mmmmm. No one went hungry! The real winner of the night was Patty Newton having scooped up a \$2,000 slot machine win! Wow! That might be a Gold Country Traveler record not soon broken, eh. Another reason to celebrate was Lucy Farly & Jim Ayers inaugural trip in the their 30 foot motorhome. And it's a beauty!

Friday, our group potluck was heralded with an impromptu thunderstorm that had a river of water running past the clubhouse. It only lasted about a half hour and that didn't slow down the sharing of all the mouthwatering selections, including a main dish of spiral sliced ham, supplied by Dick. Following the meal, we played a game of “Name That TV Show Tune.” The winners each chose a prize from the “Box of Mystery.” What did they win? You'll have to ask them....

Since they were mysteries! The highlight had to be everyone nodding to the beat of the Lone Ranger melody. Pretty fun with all the heads swaying to the unforgettable music. Hi-Ho Silver!

And not to be outdone.... Dan and Patty Newton celebrated their wedding anniversary during the outing. Glad we could join in!

There were afternoon and early evenings of Stackers, followed by pleasant evening fires, stories and friendships.

(I don't know who won all the Stackers games, but I know that Debra Cullen and Cricket Couser took home some of our cash.)

Kent, of the Feather Falls RV staff, treated all who were hungry to a delicious Saturday morning - pancake, berries and coffee breakfast! Nice touch by the park.

Jack and Mike went on a hike to Phantom and Ravine Falls and enjoyed once again the great outdoors and views of the area.

Sunday was packing up, saying our goodbyes and the planning of future outings. It is also a pleasure to welcome Ken & Cricket as the Wagon Masters for the 2025 Feather Falls trip. They already have the dates, sites and basic plans in place for a great time! Thank you, Ken & Cricket! We'll see you there!

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## **BLACK OAK RV, TOULUMNE**

**MAY 14 – 18**

Black Oak Casino and RV Park in Tuolumne, CA was the destination for the May 2024 outing. Gary and I trekked up to the park on Monday the 13<sup>th</sup> and everyone else came up on May 14<sup>th</sup>. The weather was superb, mid 80's and there was no need for any of the firepits.

Those who attended, Tim & Beth Forrester, Jack Diggins and Mike the Dog, CJ & Cathy Deaton and Aurora the Dog, Ken & Cricket Couser, Carl & Karen Taylor and Callie & Dollie the Dogs, Martin & Zoe Beaton, Virginia Quinn, John & Debbie Marquardt and Lucy & Bella the Dogs, Jim & Bonnie Marquardt and Harley the Dog, Daniel & Debbie Cullen along with Gary, me and Teddy and Layla the Dogs.

With the casino on site, several of us took advantage of the entertainment and made our yearly deposit. Some of the folks chose to have dinner one evening. They mentioned it was very good.

Daniel and Debbie along with John and Debbie went on a bike ride onto a former Lumber Train Trail. They said they ran into part of the old train tracks; part of the hill had given way, and the tracks were just suspended in the air. From what I'm told, they didn't attempt to cross.

Wednesday evening was the Potluck. We had a BBQ picnic. Tables were set up under the two Easy-Ups Gary had brought. Martin and Jack were the chefs and did a great job of grilling burgers and hot dogs. There was a tray of lettuce, tomatoes, onions along with the condiments and buns. The sides and appetizers were as delicious as usual and desserts scrumptious. Ed Fernandez and Violet Ask-Young joined us for the evening and meal as well. Thursday afternoon, almost the entire group trekked over into Sonora to Sierra Rep Theater. Ken and Cricket brought to my attention that this was showing while we were in the area. We saw a stage play titled THE DROWSEY CHAPERONE. It was hilarious. The ensemble did a marvelous job and everyone seemed to enjoy themselves immensely.

On Friday, Jack, Virginia, Gary and I wandered to Columbia for the day. It so happened to be The Diggins (not related to Jack). The Diggins is a reenactment of the town during the Gold Rush in 1849. The reenactors were all very friendly and extremely helpful with the groups of kids on field trips. The equipment they were using were exact replicas of the equipment used in the 1800's.

The evenings were spent sitting around the circle telling stories and laughing.

Saturday morning found us all packing up and making our way home until next time.

Gary & Donna Thompson

Wagon Masters

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## **SUGAR BARGE RV PARK, BETHEL ISLAND**

### **JUNE 4 – 8**

The June 2024 outing was a very special outing for the club as we celebrated our 25<sup>th</sup> year as an RV club. As most if not all of you know, we started out as branded club, accepting SUNNYBROOK trailers only. In 2010 Winnebago bought the Sunnybrook brand and the group slowly accepted any brand RV or trailer.

We had a total of 20 rigs attend the outing and 42 people attended the dinner. Instead of a potluck, we celebrated at the Sugar Barge Restaurant that is located on site along the delta waters. The anniversary committee had previously met with the restaurant management/chef and outlined everything. The restaurant offered our group a varied selection of menu items to choose from, Braised Short Ribs, Chicken Marsala, Salmon and a Pasta dish. All were delicious, along with varied appetizers and a very yummy seasonal cheesecake.

At each place setting there was a commemorative pen and a key chain. We only have one founding member still with the club, Ed Fernandez. The club presented him with a wooden plaque which is engraved with GOLD COUNTRY TRAVELERS, Est. 1999, Ed Fernandez, Founding Member.

Besides the heat that lingered for 2 days, the outing was very nice. Several members chose to bike ride into the hills near Antioch. There were a few folks who hit the local pickleball courts. Of course, we had our nightly firepit discussion, minus the firepits. Trying to get everyone around was somewhat of a challenge, but we did it.

There were a few folks who experienced some mechanical difficulties but managed to get home safely. All in all, a great time was had by all.

Gary & Donna Thompson

Wagon Masters

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Just when you think there are no unique RV's