

# **AUTOMATE RV CLUB**

## **NEWSLETTER**

Issue # 31 Summer 2010

Editor: Evette Dilley

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### **PRESIDENT'S COLUMN**

By Neil Zinn

Fall 2010 AutoMate RV Club: President's Message  
The summer has just been screaming by and the Fall rally will soon be with us. Helen and I recently wound up a 3 week trip to Oregon and Nevada in our (relatively) new 32 foot Automate. Our new rig had more bells and whistles on it than we were used to so we experienced what has been popularized as "Teaching Moments." Elsewhere in this newsletter you will find an article I prepared on what to do when the bedroom slide out fails to operate. It turned out very well and I learned some more about our coach. I just hope I don't run into the reciprocal problem of what to do when the living room slide out fails to retract. Anyway, it was fun and we love our almost new rig.

I'd like to thank everyone who voted in our special election. The three measures carried so I believe the job of running the organization will be made somewhat easier. There may be a legal reason to tweak our third measure's wording at the regular business meeting in the Spring but nothing major. We asked for a legal opinion and we got one in legalese that may or may not be as helpful as we would like. I think the next time I will ask a farmer and get an answer that is understandable to all. At the request of our membership, I've been working on a statement of tasks for those who would consider organizing a rally in the future. You may recall that at our Spring meeting this request was made to show that it is not as scary a task as some think it might be. I'll plan on including it in a later newsletter before the Spring rally.

The past couple of months have given your officers a lesson on what happens when times and officers

### **WHO TO CONTACT**

Change of address or email	Evette Dilley
Payment of dues & Rally fees	Bette Perry
Sunshine Committee	Laurie Wermuth
Newsletter	Evette Dilley
General Inquiries & Issues	Neil Zinn

change and institutional memory does not identify timelines in a timely manner. Our exceptional secretary, Evette Dilley, received an email from a member that our web site was down and what had happened to it? Evette worked for hours on this and finally got it fixed. Briefly, our domain name and site provider's contract with us expired after several years of being in force and the folks who had set it up were no longer available to be contacted for a renewal. She worked hard figuring this entire thing out and getting our web site up again. Thank you, Evette.

For my part, there was an annual statement to the tax folks due and a special report to the Secretary of State on the status of our corporation. I admit to being uninformed and becoming convinced of the need for a corporation calendar to help guide new officers so that these needs are met. I'll have to be responsible for getting this done. Fortunately, I think we have this ironed out before anything undesirable befell us.

I'd like to encourage you all to consider being involved in the running of our club at one level or another. We all have to be involved because we are a small club and we can't keep going to the same well for help. You may be asked to serve on a nominating committee while at the Fall Rally because we need to elect a new Treasurer in the Spring and you will also need to elect a club president. Yes, I know, I was just installed in the Spring but a close reading of our Bylaws reveals that the president and Treasurer need to be elected in the same year. We got off a year because the creation of the "president in training" office was not implemented correctly. I plan on submitting myself for re-election just to maintain continuity but there is an opportunity for anyone else who would like to try their hand. Filling the office of Treasurer is absolutely essential; we can't function without one. No Treasurer, no corporation and no one would serve as an officer without the legal protection of the corporation. If you have skills and experience in this area, please consider serving in this capacity. Thank you all for your support and continuing interest in our organization. United we stand, divided we fall.

Neil Zinn

## **HELP! MY SLIDE IS STUCK**

by Neil Zinn

Charlie Brown says, "Good Grief" when things go awry. I said something like that when our bedroom slide refused to open as we settled into our Klamath, CA campground recently. If you have already experienced this, you probably know the solution to the problem. If you haven't, be advised that unlike the living room slide, you don't have ready access to the limiting switches that are probably at the root of the problem. My first thoughts were on how to fix something I can't get to.

Of course, I got out my manual, the best \$10.00 investment I have ever made. The solution, it seems, is to bypass the limiting switch for the opening function. See page 29.

All the slides on the rig operate using a common hydraulic pump with each set of slides using a pair of hydraulic lines going from the pump to the respective slide outs. Oil is pumped to the slide to open it and returned to the pump to effect closure. A pair of limiting switches on each slide out interrupts the pumps to stop the slide from extending too far or retracting too far. Switches can get dirty or otherwise stick and wires may break.

For the bedroom slide, the hydraulic lines and wiring bundle run up the left front electric jack leg and body. They are typically held in place by nylon ties. This is the leg adjacent to the panel that accesses the controls for the electric jacks, the air ride suspension and leveling function but is located within the basement along the side of the rig.

Page 29 tells us to bypass the limit switch by shorting the matching color coded wires associated with the OUT function and simultaneously have your partner push the OUT button. Easy enough? Righttt! Here's the problem.

There are about 8 wires-more or less-contained within the plastic wire bundle. Fortunately, there are only two pairs of wires that have matching color codes. Unfortunately, the manual cautions us to only activate (short) the pair associated with the OUT function.

Activating the wrong pair WILL DAMAGE THE SLIDE. Unfortunately, you can't access

The limiting switches located between the pull-out drawers at the foot of the bed to visually identify the correct color code associated with the IN/OUT functions because the bed is in the closed position and partly under the cabinetry.

Plan B for me was to call Jim Dilley, who had already faced this problem. He advised shorting the Black and Green striped wires with a knife blade while the lady pushed the OUT button.

Remember that AutoMates are built individually. They can all be different. My paired wires were Black and Yellow and Green and White. NO Black and Green. Now what? I took a stab at it by shorting the Black and Yellow coded wires and having Helen push the OUT button. Success! I guessed right; the slide extended and I didn't damage anything.

Lessons:

Before you have problems with your slide, eyeball your limiting switches to determine your rig's color codes for the IN and OUT functions and record them on page 29 of your manual. If you can't recognize the switches, think of a cube about 1.5" square with a small rod-like piece that comes into contact with the opening and closing slide, that opens the switch and stops movement when optimal extension or retraction occurs. If you can't figure it out, ask someone to show them to you at the next rally. Remember the switches for the bedroom are hidden if the slide is fully retracted.

Carry a spray can of electronic cleansing spray. It's made to clean electronic equipment without damaging them; manually clean the points of attachment on the limiting switch and inspect the wires to make sure there are no breaks or frayed areas.

## **WHERE DID THE WEBSITE GO ??**

When Richard Clark (not Dale) emailed me to say that he had tried to look up some information on the website and it wasn't there, I decided to see for myself. Sure enough, he was right. I came to a web page that offered me the domain name that I had thought was already ours. Now what, who to call?? So I turned to Beverly Wolf, our web master. With me on the phone and her on the internet, she made her way through the ins and outs to determine that our domain name had been set up and paid for 8 years ago when Sue Tavernetti was our treasurer. So her name and contact information was on the

account. BUT since then she had not only moved but she changed her email address, so the sites had no current contact information. So now I needed to get a hold of her, but she was not answering her phone, and when I emailed her she answered from Canada, saying that the information we needed was in the treasurer's book. With a call to Bette Perry the information was retrieved. Then a conference call was placed with Beverly, the hosting site customer service dept. and me, and we were able to, re-establish the account for 5 more years with me as the main registrant and Beverly as the technical contact person. Because the hosting site was offering a "special" we were able to get it all for a much lower price than what we had paid before. Now the domain name and hosting site has been paid for for 5 years and when the time is up both Beverly and I will be notified. I then notified Bette, to tell her that we could stop paying for the first site as I had charged the full 5 years on my charge card. Problem solved! Right?? NOT SO FAST. Sunday the 22 we came home from a week end on the coast only to find an email from Frank Williams asking where the website went. OH NO, not again. After checking and getting the same results, I got back on the phone to the webmaster, seems that when we up-dated all the information we forgot one little step and when Bette stopped the payments to the other site they shut us down. So NOW we are back up and running, at least for the next 5 years. A big thanks to Beverly Wolf of Wolf on web, for all her time and help. (That's why this Newsletter is late.

## **SPRING RALLY 2011 NOT CHANGE OF DATE**

Mark your calendars for our Automate Spring Rally, **May 19, 20, 21 & 22, 2011** at the Napa County Fairgrounds, Calistoga. Park your rig in a lush grassy field at the fairgrounds. Tour the quaint town of Calistoga with its hot springs, spas, and shops. Visit world class wineries and taste their wines. See Old Faithful Geyser of Calistoga, the Petrified Forest, Bothe Napa Valley State Park and Grist Mill, or the Sharpsteen Museum. Take a hot air balloon ride, ride the Napa Valley Wine Train, or just kick back with your Automate friends and enjoy. See you all at our Spring Rally in Calistoga, April 14-17 next year.

## FALL RALLY

The Fall Rally is set for **Oct. 7, 8, 9 & 10, 2010**, just around the corner. This is the club's **10th anniversary year** and you don't want to miss it. The location is the Sonora Fairgrounds on highway 49 in Sonora. The cost will be \$150.00 for a rig with 2 people and \$130.00 for a rig with 1 person.

**Deadline for registration is Sept. 24, 2010.**

Remember that gets you 3 nights camping, a welcome event with snacks, 2 breakfasts and 2 dinners. Any extra nights are at \$18.00 per night. Use the registration form on the last page of the Newsletter to sign up.

Mick and Judy say that Van of JV Crafts will be there, if you want a special decal of any kind be sure and call him at (209) 993-7820 to let him know so that he will be sure and have enough materials.

**ALSO Mick and Judy are asking for 1 item to be donated from each rig for a silent auction.**

## AUTOMATES FOR SALE

### 1998 25' Fifth Wheel

This custom-built trailer has a 112" x 40" slide containing the refrigerator and couch. Special items include two 7.5 gal LPG tanks, dual batteries, a 4.0 Onan LPG generator under the floor, Air-ride suspension system, one PV solar panel, Corian counter tops, Datron Satellite System/TV, porcelain sinks and toilet, refrigerator with top freezer, black water tank flush, 15,000 BTU Air Conditioner, oak kitchen cabinets and oak floor in front of the sink area, basement storage, sofa sleeper with storage drawer, Fantastic fans in the ceiling, tinted windows, day/night shades on bedroom windows, and dual motor front jacks. New cost \$43,000. Asking \$19,995. Very good condition with no smoking, no children, and no pets. E-mail photos on request. Trailer is located in Ridgecrest, CA, on the eastern side of the Sierras, 90 miles north of Lancaster, CA.

Contact LeRoy Stayton : (760) 446-7273

E-mail: [L.stayton@mchsi.com](mailto:L.stayton@mchsi.com) or [jstayton@mchsi.com](mailto:jstayton@mchsi.com)

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### 2000 32' 5th wheel,

Price reduced

3 slides, rear kitchen with convection microwave, dinette with 4 chairs, pantry, love seat reclines each side ,large recliner, king size bed, lots of closet and storage, large shower,25"and13"TV with digital satellite receiver, fantastic fans, duo therm ac's, washer/dryer combo, onan generator, air ride, disc brakes,4 new interstate batteries ,auto pump for waste, basement storage, Cal Mark cover for unit....barely used due to illness and death of husband....asking \$21,000

Contact Anita Baillie (701) 223-1527

[anita.baillie@hotmail.com](mailto:anita.baillie@hotmail.com)

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### 2001 31J 5th Wheel

2 slides, teal graphics, rear kitchen, corian counters, air ride suspension, disc brakes, extra insulation package, full awnings, 3 solar panels which can be tilted up and rotated to face the sun; 800 W Trace Inverter, new Toyo Tires, Deep Cycle 6 V batteries and Gaucho last year - the rig is immaculate and ready to go: Also, a 2004 Dodge 3500, 6 speed, White w/Cummins Diesel, only 52,600 miles, factory installed exhaust brake, 70 gallon TransferFlo auxiliary fuel tank, running boards, Eide boat loader, 5th Wheel Hitch, all in excellent condition - Asking \$38,500 for both, would like to sell as a package.

Contact Jack Vincent (360)385-5584;

cell: (360)301-0142; email: [jonvin01@gmail.com](mailto:jonvin01@gmail.com)

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FALL RALLY REGISTRATION FORM

Oct. 7, 8, 9 & 10, 2010  
Mother Lode Fairgrounds  
Highway 49  
Sonora, CA

Mail to:

Bette Perry  
20863 Alfalfa Rd.  
Crows Landing, CA 95313-9757

Cost \$150.00 per rig with 2 persons, \$130.00 per rig with 1 person

Any extra nights camping will be \$18.00 per night & needs to be paid to the AutoMate RV Club.

**Dead line for registration Sept. 24, 2010**

Here is my check made out to **AutoMate RV Club** in the amount of \_\_\_\_\_.

I am also paying for \_\_\_\_\_ extra nights @ \$18.00 each night.

I will be arriving on \_\_\_\_\_ and leaving on \_\_\_\_\_ (please fill in dates)

There will be \_\_\_\_\_ people in my rig.

I need handicapped parking.

Name(s) \_\_\_\_\_

Address \_\_\_\_\_

\_\_\_\_\_ Phone \_\_\_\_\_

e-mail \_\_\_\_\_