

AutoMate RV Club Newsletter

Issue #3, Spring 2003

Editor: Jim Stephenson

PRESIDENT'S COLUMN

By Betty Pollack

Thanks to Club members who attended the April General Meeting for the confidence you showed in me by electing me as your new President. Bob Cohen will be a hard act to follow! We all owe Bob a debt of gratitude for his vision, energy and leadership as our founding President, and I'm so pleased that Bob has agreed to stay on the Board in an ex-officio capacity and to chair a major committee.

Your new Board and committees are planning a year of activities that we hope will be beneficial to all members and will encourage other AutoMate owners to join our Club ranks. Our two year old Club is proud to have nearly 250 member rigs. This year we hope to significantly expand membership through a combination of active outreach, communication, and development of useful technical member benefits. These include holding two rallies to promote member networking, socializing, and sharing of technical information pertaining to the operation and maintenance of our rigs. We are also developing several printed and/or web based technical resources. The specifics are described elsewhere in this newsletter.

My philosophy is that volunteer groups such as ours are strengthened by the participation of members in committees and events, and that committees can accomplish their goals by dividing up tasks through email communication or brief meetings at rallies. I am grateful to all of you who agreed to chair and/or serve on committees this year. If you have ideas or concerns to share or would like to become involved, please contact me or a Board member or a committee chair. Very

important, when you contact me at bgpollack@aol.com PLEASE TYPE AUTOMATE IN THE SUBJECT LINE because I delete messages from addresses I don't recognize.

I look forward to working with you all to help make our AutoMate Club become even more beneficial to us all during my term of office.

Betty

Newsletter Notes

And to support Betty and the rest of the board, we will attempt to produce a Newsletter which keeps everyone informed about Club and AutoMate matters. I'm still struggling with the format, with my major concern being to keep the costs reasonable. For this reason, we may stay with a black & white – no photo format which could lead to a more frequent and possibly more voluminous publication. That will depend on how much material **you** contribute! The WebPage, by the way has a great collection of photos of recent and past AutoMate events. Thanks Diana and Bob for this effort!

The Newsletter will be published on www.automatervclub.com for the benefit of the cyber people and those who travel too much for the snails, as well as being mailed to the non-cyber folks, pocketmail people and those who request snail mail. Comments on this along with contributions to future issues will be most welcome. Since I travel a lot, the best contact will be: automatenewsletter@earthlink.net.

So let's hear from you with your ideas and your contributions!

Jim

**Minutes of Automate RV Club
April 5, 2003**

The meeting was called to order by President Bob Cohen. The minutes were read and approved.

FINANCIAL REPORT

Bob Cohen read the financial report as submitted by Treasurer Ellie Watts. Income received for the year was \$16,358 (\$4,220 in dues and \$12,138 in rally income and club logo gear sales). Expenses were \$17,947. Balance as of April 3 is \$4,148. The report was approved as written. The Club voted to maintain dues at \$20 per rig per year.

STATE OF THE CLUB

The club membership seems to be running around 200 rigs. Please help by checking information on the current roster or submit changes to Barbara Luthin at jerandbee@yahoo.com. An updated roster will be sent out.

WEBSITE

The website is easily accessed, is interactive and user friendly. People can join, pay dues, order clothing, read the newsletter and use the chat room. (See Technical Help Committee report below.)

Bob Cohen encouraged the members to log onto the site. He is concerned that the membership is not fully using it.

OWNERS' MANUAL

All dues-paying members have a copy. There are two corrections to note: On page 7, paragraph 1.11, correct torque for the lug nuts is 95 ft. lb. On page 22, correct torque for U bolts is 45-60 ft. lb. Both of these corrections are posted on the website. The Manual is a living document in that it is under constant revision and addition. If members have problems and/or solutions, please email Bob at rmc@ureach.com so that they can be included in the next edition of the manual. (See Technical Assistance Manager's Committee report below.)

CLUB IDENTIFICATION ITEMS

Items can be ordered from the website. Clothing items are ordered as requests come in. They are made up and mailed or brought to the next rally. This eliminates the necessity of anyone having to warehouse extras. The previous supplier, who offered items at cost, has gone out of business. The new supplier is pricier, but items are of good quality. Jackets are posted on the web but so far there has been no demand. Hats and shirts are popular.

ELECTION OF OFFICERS

In accordance with the bylaws, the positions of President, Treasurer and Newsletter/webmaster were up for election. Bob presented the slate recommended by the nominating committee: President: Betty Pollack, Treasurer: Sue Tavernetti, Newsletter/Webmaster: Jim Stephenson. The position of Wagon Master is still vacant. Bob Cohen asked for any nominations from the floor. There were none. The slate was nominated, seconded and accepted as presented.

At this point, newly elected President Betty Pollack took over the meeting. Bob Cohen received a vote of thanks and a standing ovation for his efforts in organizing and running the club during its first two years. Also recognized were Diana and Alan Storm for their work on the Newsletter and the first draft of the Owners' Manual, and Ellie Watts for her efforts as treasurer. Diana will continue as unofficial photographer for the club. A nominating committee will present a slate of officers before next year's meeting.

RALLY INFORMATION

FALL RALLY: Bill Noble will chair this event. The Rally will have both social and informative events.

SPRING RALLY: Bob Livesey will chair this event along with Bill Morgado (speakers and vendors), Helen Zinn (social events) and Andy Anderson (parking). Dates selected are March 25-29, 2004 again at the fairgrounds in Los Banos.

BY-LAW AMENDMENTS

It was moved and seconded that the number of signatories on the checking account be increased to include all the members of the board. Checks will still require two signatures. The motion carried.

It was moved and seconded that the position of Wagonmaster be eliminated in lieu of Technical Assistance Manager. This is a temporary waver. The motion carried.

SUGGESTIONS

1. Make rally costs non-refundable since the Club may lose as much as \$1,000 over no-shows this year.
2. Ask Bob Cohen to remain as ex-officio member of the board to help with continuity and technical assistance. He will fill the new position of Technical Assistance Manager.
3. Continue to check into liability coverage for the club and the officers.
4. Spread the responsibilities by forming committees for each function.
5. When emailing members, put AutoMate in the subject line so recipient will not eliminate it as SPAM.

At this point in the meeting, members were asked to select a committee chairperson and to meet for the purpose of making suggestions for the coming year.

COMMITTEE REPORTS

FALL RALLY: Relocate to Paso Robles. Rotate location every three years from Northern, Central and Southern California. The committee still needs chairpersons for Speakers/Vendors and Social Events.

SPRING RALLY: Vendors will be accepted even if they only represent one manufacturer. Social events will include morning coffee and donuts, ice cream social on Thursday, Friday lunch, a pet social, dinner out then game night, Saturday luau, Sunday non-denominational morning service.

TECHNICAL HELP: Hud Hatch has developed and posted on the website a form for critiquing service that members receive on the road. He requests that members rate the service company in several areas and send the information to him at hudjohatch@cs.com. He will post the results on the Club website so members will know who gives quality service and who to avoid according to location.

He would also like members to contact him if they have a particular area of expertise to share with the members at large. This information will also be posted on the website to help members with problems either at home or on the road.

OUTREACH: Julie and Ross Stewart will contact AutoMate owners and invite them to participate in the Club. They will contact ex members to encourage them to rejoin. A one-page introduction sheet will introduce potential members to the club.

WOMEN'S ISSUES: Diana Storm will look for topics and presenters of specific interest to women.

TECHNICAL ASSISTANCE MANAGER: Concentrate on expanding and upgrading the Manual. Develop a list of subjects which need to be expanded. Limit these to topics unique to AutoMate, not those available from vendors. Look into the cost of quality illustrations and approach the board regarding financial support.

Bob suggested that as much as \$2,000 be allocated to improving the Manual. This would be used for better quality photos and in-depth information gathered from interviews and/or tapes of specific topics with Dan Wilson. Bob asked for information from the membership at large regarding topics which are not covered in the Manual.

NEWSLETTER: The newsletter and the webpage are an overlapping tool. Jim Stephenson needs input from members as to what they want covered.

PARKING: Committee is in place for next year even though Andy Anderson may not be personally available.

SMALL GROUP OUTINGS: Tina Goulart is interested in organizing small weekend outings for members. Contact her at kalypso@pacbell.com

Respectfully submitted,
Barbara Luthin, Sec.

Parking Committee

Andy Anderson, Chairman, would like to thank the Parking Committee for volunteering and all the hard (?) work they did getting everyone parked at the April Rally. Also thanks to those who signed up this year to help in the future.

And all the rest of us add our thanks for a very smooth landing!

OMELET IN A BAG

(For 60 people)

Blend in a blender:

- 15 doz. eggs.
- 3 cups water.

Cook and mince into small pieces & drain
(put into sealed container):

- 5 lbs. Sausage.

Cut into small pieces, cook and drain well
(put into sealed container):

- 4 lbs. Bacon.

Chop into small pieces (into container):

- 4 lbs cooked ham.

Chop 7 cups each and put into separate sealed containers:

- Bell peppers (red &/or green)
- Green onions
- Mushrooms
- Any veggie you like in your omelet

Grate 8 cups each, mix and put into sealed container:

- Cheddar Cheese
- Jack Cheese (or your favorite cheese)

Provide:

- 60 freezer zip lock bags - qt. size,

- 2 to 3 **large** pots of boiling water and of course the heat source.

Arrange containers with ingredients in them on a long table. Put each person's name on the Ziplock bag, using permanent marker and have each person put the ingredients he/she likes in their omelet into the bag.

- Use ¼ cup of eggs for a one egg omelet, or
- ½ Cup for a two egg omelet (best size)
(We don't recommend 3 eggs – it gets too tough by the time it is cooked).

Remove all the air from the bag and pop it into the boiling water – 7 omelets at a time is perfect. Cook for 7 to 10 minutes in the boiling water. Remove with tongs and find the owner of the bag.

Have sour cream, salsa, tomatoes, etc. on a second table for garnish. (Do not put these ingredients into the bag before cooking as the omelet will not get firm).

Serve with fruit and rolls, bagels, etc.

ENJOY!

Editor's Note:

The above was enjoyed by many at the Spring Rally, and is to be repeated in Sept. in Paso Robles. Be there!

Club Officers

<u>President:</u>	Betty Pollack 316 Sycamore St. San Carlos, CA 94070-2020 bgpollack@aol.com	<u>Secretary:</u>	Barbara Luthin 1033 Willow Lake Rd. Discovery Bay, CA 94514 jerandbee@yahoo.com
<u>Vice President:</u>	Bob Livesey 1550 E. Kamm #143 Kingsburg, CA 93631 RELivesey@copper.net	<u>Newsletter :</u>	Jim Stephenson 11438 Winding Trail Lane Dublin, CA 94568 jgsteph@earthlink.net
<u>Treasurer:</u>	Sue Tavernetti 238 Rio Vista Dr. King City, CA 93930 tavernetti@redshift.com	<u>Ex-Officio:</u>	Bob Cohen 14702 Illinois Ct. Moorpark, CA 93021 rmc@ureach.com

Committee Chairs: (Please contact these individuals to volunteer your help!)

Fall Rally:	Bill Noble (805) 934-2886	Spring Rally:	
Sunshine:	Kathy Noble (ditto)	Events	BobLivesey (E-Mail inside)
AutoMate Owners		Parking:	Andy Anderson
Outreach:	Julie & Ross Stewart (JulieRV@aol.com)	Speakers/	(209) 403-3047
		Vendors:	Dave Pollack (650) 591-5401
		Social Events:	Helen Zinn (916) 489-7259

AUTOMATE RV CLUB

FALL RALLY

When: October 2-5, 2003

Where: Wine Country RV Resort
Paso Robles, California

Come and join fellow "Automaters" for a fun filled weekend amongst the rolling vineyards and oak-studded hills in Paso Robles. Enjoy the activities scheduled as follows:

<u>Thursday, Oct 2</u>	2:00 – 4:00 p.m.	Club members arrive at RV Resort
	7:00 – 9:00 p.m.	Ice Cream Social in Clubroom
<u>Friday, Oct 3</u>	8:00 – 10:00 a.m.	Breakfast in Clubroom "Omelets in a Bag"
	1:00 – 3:00 p.m.	Wine Tasting in Clubroom with cheese/crackers and appetizers
	6:00 – 7:30 p.m.	Pizza Dinner in Clubroom (beer and soft drinks included)
	7:30 – 9:30 p.m.	Karaoke in Clubroom
<u>Saturday, Oct 4</u>	1:00 – 3:30 p.m.	*Wine Tours / Come see how it's made (provide your own transportation) Optional Function: BINGO in the Clubroom.
	6:00 – 9:00 p.m.	Dinner in Clubroom (8 oz top sirloin, salad, beans, bread, dessert, wine, beer, soft drinks, and coffee)
<u>Sunday, Oct 5</u>	12:00 Noon	Check Out

*Sign up (upon your arrival to the park) at the Resort Office to schedule your tour

Cost:	2 People/Rig w/full hook-ups.....	\$ 150
(Includes camping,	1 Person/Rig w/full hook-ups.....	\$ 115
food and all activities)	Each Additional Person.....	\$ 35

Full hook-ups (including telephone & cable TV) for the first 65 rigs only

RSVP with check by **August 29, 2003** to:

Treasurer Sue Tavernetti

238 Rio Vista Drive, King City, CA 93930

~ SEE NEXT PAGE FOR ADDITIONAL INFO ~

~ **ADDITIONAL INFO** ~

1. **Overflow** --The RV Resort will accommodate rigs over the count of 65 with dry camping facilities only. Overflow cost for the rally will be as follows (includes camping, food and all activities):

2 People/Rig w/full hook-ups.....	\$ 105
1 Person/Rig w/full hook-ups.....	\$ 70
Each Additional Person.....	\$ 35

The above rates are available only if we exceed 65 rigs.

2. \$10 cancellation fee for refunds if notified by August 29. **No refunds after August 29.**
3. **Early in/Early out** --The RV Resort will accommodate members who want to come in early or leave late by holding the rally camping rate of \$25 per night for up to three (3) days before and three (3) days after the rally.
4. **Driving directions to the Wine Country RV Resort –** From
Highway 101, take Hwy 46 East two miles to Airport Road. Turn left. Resort is immediately on your right.
From Highway 46 West, turn right on Airport Road (two miles east of Paso Robles). Resort is immediately on your right.
5. Paso Robles is located on the central coast halfway between San Francisco and Los Angeles.

Paso Robles offers:

Antique Stores
Golf Courses
Museums – Art Galleries
Wineries & Wine Tasting

Nearby Attractions:

Hearst Castle State Historical Monument (Call 1-800-444-4445 for details or go to
Atascadero Factory Outlet Stores www.hearstcastle.org)
Cambria
Fishing Village of Morro Bay
Mission San Miguel
Mission San Antonio
Oct. 2 – San Miguel Farmer’s Flea Market
Water Sports @ Lake Nacimiento and Lake San Antonio

SPEAKERS AND VENDORS QUESTIONNAIRE

Please help us plan our speakers and vendors for our March 25-28, 2004 rally in Los Banos by filling out and returning the following questionnaire to Dave Pollack. You may email him at bgpollack@aol.com noting AutoMate in the subject line, or send it by snail mail to 316 Sycamore St., San Carlos, CA 94070.

In the column to the left please mark "Y" for those topics which are of great interest to you and "N" for those that do not interest you at all. Leave the "so-so" topics blank. For the "Y"s, In the right hand columns, please check whether your interest is for a speaker, a vendor, or both. Thank you.

Level of Interest (Y or N)	TOPIC	Speaker	Vendor
		(Check preference if marked "Y")	
___	Truck power upgrades	___	___
___	Truck exhaust brakes	___	___
___	Truck maintenance	___	___
___	Hitches	___	___
___	Tires	___	___
___	Axles and suspensions	___	___
___	Brakes	___	___
___	Weight limits and distribution	___	___
___	Electrical systems	___	___
___	Solar panels	___	___
___	Water and power supplies (hoses, filters, pumps, adapters, plugs)	___	___
___	Exterior rig maintenance	___	___
___	Interior rig maintenance/housekeeping tips	___	___
___	Heater maintenance	___	___
___	Appliances maintenance	___	___
___	Interior odor control	___	___
___	Satellite TV systems and usage tips	___	___
___	Insurance	___	___
___	GPS systems	___	___
___	Access and use of Club web page	___	___
___	Great travel locations (roundtable discussion)	___	___
___	Boondocking locations and tips (roundtable discussion)	___	___
___	Portable gas logs for campfires	___	___
___	Other _____	___	___
___	Other _____	___	___

Your suggestions for speakers or vendors: _____

If you would like to be a speaker, or to arrange for a speaker or vendor, please indicate which one and be sure to include your name and email address or phone number: _____

WebPage Notices:

www.automatervclub.com

Our WebMaster has been working on the Club WebPage quite a bit, trying to make it the king-pin of our communications program. You will find:

- Club Gear – order on line.
- Members Only – handy links and order name tags.
- Membership – brush up on Club purpose and apply for membership.
- Travel Chat – what are you doing and where, what problems, triumphs, etc.
- Guest Book – comments of any nature from Guests and Members.
- And others!

The reference list of useful service locations will be added soon, as well as other items as they occur to us. Let us know your suggestions and needs. And visit often!

Rally News

Fall Rally:

- October 2 – 5
- Wine Country RV Resort
- See flyer in this Newsletter!

Spring Rally:

- March 25 – 28, 2004
- Merced Country Fairgrounds,
Los Banos

Dues Reminder

At press time there remain a number of folks who have not yet paid their dues for the 2003 / 2004 program year.

Please send check for \$20 payable to the AutoMate RV Club, to Sue Tavernetti, Treasurer (address within).

Jim Stephenson
Editor for AutoMate RV Club
11438 Winding Trail Lane
Dublin, CA 94568