

AUTOMATE RV CLUB

NEWSLETTER

Issue # 15, Spring 2006

Editor: C J Golden

CLUB OFFICERS

President: Dale Clark
3700 S Westport Ave. # 1993
Sioux Falls, SD 57106
joda@pocketmail.com

Vice President: Jim West
5287 N. Gates Ave.
Fresno, CA 93722
no email

Secretary: Vacant position

Treasurer: Gary Wermuth
6235 Reba Drive
Granite Bay, CA 95746
gwermuth@surewest.net

Newsletter: Connie Golden
P O Box 4523
Mountain View, CA 94040-
0523 cjgolden@earthlink.net

President Elect: Ed Vukonich
15200 Monterey Road
Morgan Hill, CA 95037-5435
rev15200@yahoo.com

It is VERY IMPORTANT to UNBLOCK your e-mail for the officers above.

WHO TO CONTACT:

Change of address	Connie Golden
Payment of Dues and Rally Fees	Gary Wermuth
Newsletter/Webpage	Connie Golden
Sunshine Committee Cards	Kathy Noble
Fall Rally	Ed & Roma Vukonich
General Inquiries & Issues	Dale Clark

PRESIDENT'S COLUMN

The Spring Rally met its promise and was another great event. Even though it rained much of the time, the interchanges between members, the technical speakers and vendors, and the social events made this a very special occasion. The rally was chaired very successfully by Vice President Jim West and his wife Sharon. They have agreed to chair the Spring Rally in 2007 also. We decided at the annual meeting that the Spring Rally can be held later in the Spring, like in May, if that is a more favorable time. We certainly wouldn't expect to have as much rain in May! Ross Stewart lined up a full schedule of speakers and vendors for Friday and Saturday. Saturday's annual membership meeting was an important event. Club members elected Jim West to be vice president and Karen Dixon to be secretary for 2 year terms and Ed Vukonish, to be president elect, which is a new board position under our new bylaws. The member elected for that office serves one year on the board and then will automatically be our new president, in April, 2007. After the rally ended and Karen Dixon got home, she found she would be in a situation that wouldn't allow her time to do the secretary's duties, so she has resigned from that position. We are looking for another member to fill that position. Please let me know if you are interested.

Under New Business we discussed Ted Martin's letter that proposed that people who used to own Automates be allowed to continue to be members of our club and attend our rallies after they have sold their Automates and bought a different brand RV. Many viewpoints were presented both pro and con. Because Automate RVs are no longer being manufactured, this fact will present problems in the future, keeping the membership

large enough to be viable as a club. The Board will research alternatives and present proposals for membership bylaw changes to the membership at the next Annual Meeting to be voted on at that time.

Have a great time RVing this Summer and see you at the Fall Rally in Sonora.

Dale Clark

SPRING AUTOMATE RALLY 2006

A great time was had by all at the Lodi Grape Festival & Harvest Fairgrounds in Lodi, CA. in spite of the rain.



Welcome to All



Great Food



Up Early for Breakfast!

California Highway Patrol: Of particular interest was the presentation by the California Highway Patrol. Do you know that if you are licensed to drive in California and your 5th wheel weighs more than 10,000 lbs. but not over 15,000 lbs GVWR, that your license needs an “endorsement” to this effect? To get this endorsement you will take a law test for a noncommercial Class A license based on information contained in “Recreational Vehicles and Trailers Handbook”, available at the DMV, and you must also pass the Class C law test unless you qualified for a Class C license within the past 12 months. You are NOT required to take a driving test to add a Recreational Trailer endorsement to your current license. You are NOT required to submit a Health Questionnaire. The comments from the audience indicated that most DMV offices don’t know what to do when you request such an endorsement. Some give you a Class A non-commercial license, some give you an endorsement that says “restriction 88”, others say “restriction 41”, etc. My husband and I went into the same DMV office and we each got a different endorsement number even though we each passed the same tests. It is important to get this endorsement as the highway patrol says that in case of an accident, your insurance company could decline to cover you since you are driving without a valid license.

Presentations by the RV Safety Education Foundation (Aweigh We go) including weighing of your vehicle and RV, Good Year Tires, and

K&P Enterprises (water filters) were informative as always.

A white elephant exchange on Friday night was very entertaining - many unusual gifts were selected and taken "home".



I always wanted a woodpecker!



On Saturday evening the Martial Arts demonstration was very interesting.

ACRYLIC AWNING CARE

From Richard & Shirley Clark.

To clean your awnings, wash with a mixture of: ¼ cup bleach, ¼ cup dish soap, and 5 gal. water. Apply with a sponge, brush, etc. Roll up the awning and let stand 5 minutes. Open the awning, hose off and let air dry. Immediately reapply Scorchgard. This information came from A&E.



Bill Wyreck Spoke at Rally

At the Spring Rally Bill Wyreck spoke about Los Banos RV and the service he is providing Automate owners. A special price for an Automate general maintenance inspection for the month of April was announced. Call Dan Wilson at (209) 201-4446 to make appointments or to ask about their storage options.

Last October Bill Wyrick wrote a letter to the AtuoMate RV Club that was supposed to appear in the Winter newsletter. However, a copy just got to me in April, so here it is.

October 17, 2005.

I would like to thank all who attended the AutoMate RV Club rally on October 13th for such a warm welcome. Your President, Dale Clark, and rally organizers, Don & Cheri Klusman, were very gracious in allowing us to speak at this event. I would also like to express my appreciation for your overwhelming response to the Los Banos RV (LBRV) Survey. Your supportive comments were greatly appreciated. Not only will your comments assist in aligning LBRV into a satisfactory atmosphere, but will also assist in making this a more productive environment. Hopefully this will keep you on the road where you'd like to be and not in the 'shop'.

Don't miss the LBRV Newsletter to be published in November 2005.

Bill Wyrick, Los Banos RV

NEW & RETURNING MEMBERS – 2005-06

Welcome to these new members and welcome back to those who left the club for a while. We hope to see you at future rallies. Let us know if there are some activities you would like to join or start that would be of interest to AutoMate owners. Let me know if any of this information is incorrect.

List to members only.

A list of all members will be provided in the Summer issue.

MINUTES OF THE AUTOMATE RV CLUB ANNUAL MEETING- April 1, 2006

The meeting was called to order by President Dale Clark. The minutes from the April 2, 2005 annual membership meeting were read by Acting Secretary Connie Golden and approved as read.

FINANCIAL REPORT:

Gary Wermuth gave the Treasurer's report. The balance on 3/27/06 was \$20,024.64. Income for the year was \$20,720. Expenses for the 2005 Spring Rally were \$3,175.44. Expenses for the 2005 Fall Rally were \$3941.40. Spring Rally 2006 costs have not been determined yet. The report was approved as presented.

COMMITTEE REPORTS:

MEMBERSHIP: Connie Golden reported for Terri Gaucin that the club membership, as of March 27, 2006 is 240. 34 previous members have dropped out, two because they have sold their Automates. We had 31 new members in 2005. A current roster is available for member's additions and corrections in the meeting room. An updated roster will be sent out in July after the dues deadline. Please let both the secretary and the newsletter editor know of address changes, otherwise you may not get your newsletter.

SUNSHINE: Kathy Noble explained the purpose of this committee is to provide support to other club members with a card and well wishes.

She reported that 8 cards had been sent out to members who needed a little more "sunshine" in their lives.

PARKING: Al Shader introduced his helpers who had done an exceptionally good job in the very rainy weather. He provided exit information and reminded us that if you want to camp together, then you must arrive together or coordinate in some way so space is left for later arrivals.

ELECTION OF OFFICERS

NOMINATING COMMITTEE: Henry Goodrich reported that the nominating committee submits the following slate for election; President Elect, Ed Vukonich, Vice President, Jim West, and Secretary, Karen Dixon. The slate was nominated, seconded and accepted as presented. It was noted that the President Elect position is officially the President in training position. Ed will become President automatically next Spring.

RECOGNITION OF OUTGOING OFFICERS:

Dale Clark presented a certificate of appreciation for their hard work to: Berry Pollack, for her years on the BOD, including President for 2003 and 2004, Terri Gaucin, for her service as Secretary for 2004 – 2005, Jim West, for his service to the board including Vice President for 2004 -2005 and Spring rally chair.



INTRODUCTION OF NEW BOARD: Dale Clark introduced the new board members (Karen Dixon not present).

NEW BUSINESS:

Dale Clark said that dues would remain at \$20 per year for the next FY ending in 2007.

Dale Clark read a letter from member Ted Martin that proposed that we change our membership qualifications to include people who used to own Automates, but have sold them and can't buy a new one because the factory is closed. After much discussion, pro and con, a motion was made, seconded and passed that the Board of Directors of the Automate RV Club prepare proposals for membership bylaw changes to be voted on at the next annual meeting.

LOCATION OF FALL 2006 RALLY:

Ed Vukonich announced that the fall rally would be held in Sonora Fairgrounds on October 5 – 8, 2006. Old fire wagons will put out demonstration fires and other interesting events will be available to those that attend. Keep those dates open. Attendees really liked having the highway patrol, tire vendor and weighing station available at the Spring Rally. They would like to have some talks at the Fall Rally, possibly on how to Full Time, a technical exchange of lessons learned about their Automate, and experience at various RV parks.

SPRING RALLY 2007:

Jim West is the chair. He led a discussion on holding the Spring Rally one month later than we usually do so we would meet the first week of May. There would then be 6 months between rallies instead of the 5 & 7 months we currently have. Also the weather would be better. The members agreed that the dates should be at the discretion of the Rally Chair.

The date of the next Annual Membership Meeting will be Saturday 2:00-4:00 PM at the Spring 2006 rally.

AJOURNMENT: The meeting was adjourned at 3:45 pm.

Respectfully Submitted, Connie Golden, Acting Secretary

AUTOMATE CARAVANS??

At the Rally a member suggested that Automate owners with common interests get together and “caravan” to a location of mutual interest – like watching the A’s play baseball in Arizona at their Spring Training. Others thought the idea was a good one. Other suggested caravan destinations were Memaloose State Park on the Columbia River, Oregon and Zion National Park in Southern Utah.

Since I can't remember who originated this idea and agreed to be the Club's coordinator, will that person please contact me so I can let those interested get in touch with her. In the meantime, contact me, the newsletter editor, if you are interested in setting up or participating in an AutoMate Caravan.

WE NEED INFO !!!

We need to have you, our members, provide information about

- RV repair shops that can effectively repair Automates,
- vendors that supply parts for Automates,
- great RV parks that you enjoyed, and
- problems with your AutoMate that you solved with a description of your solution.

Please send this information to the Newsletter editor for inclusion in a future issue and for inclusion in our maintenance manual/ appendices, as appropriate.

HAVE YOU PAID YOUR CLUB DUES?

Club dues are due each April. Many of you paid at the rally or when you sent in your rally fees. If you haven't paid yet, please send \$20 for 2006 dues to Gary Wermuth, 6235 Reba Dr. Granite Bay, CA 95746.

AUTOMATE PARTS

Bob Livesey handed out an updated list of Manufacturers supplying Automate parts at the Rally. Here is some additional manufacturer information provided at the Rally.

From Richard and Shirley Clark:
List of parts and vendors in newsletter for members only.

From Bob and Karen Dixon: If you need a new Limit Switch, RV Dr. George in Sacramento has spare parts. Also Motor Home Life has a list of RV Scavenger Companies that have RV parts.

AUTOMATE FOR SALE

1989 Automate Motor Home for sale. Completely remodeled inside. Low Mileage Call (831) 438-5771 for more information.

LEVELING LEG TROUBLE SHOOTING

Charles W. Soules

Article in newsletter for members only.

CLUB ITEMS FOR SALE

CLUB NAME TAGS

- Vendor -

JV CRAFTS

CUSTOM LASER ENGRAVING

AutoMate RV Club

Attn: C J Golden

552 Bean Creek Rd. # 172

Scotts Valley, CA 95066-3343

US mail: 8555 S. Wolfe Rd.
French Camp, CA 95231

Phone: 209-993-7820

Fax: 209-983-1885

e-mail: van-jan@juno.com

Members who wish to order Club name tags may do so directly from JV Crafts. The price is \$11.00 per name tag (which includes tax and shipping. For the same price, you can choose from clip-on, pin-on, or magnet

CLUB LOGO ITEMS

for sale at

LANDS' END

Business Outfitters

800-338-2000

landsend.com/business

AutoMate RV Club Logo # 0485920w

(This number is for members only)

Fall Rally 2006

Date: October 5th-8th, 2006

Site: Sonora Fairgrounds

Hosts: Ed & Roma Vukonich

There will be more details in the next newsletter.

**Pictures in this newsletter and on the
web are courtesy of Ed Robinson –
Many Thanks!**