

AutoMate RV Club

Newsletter

Issue #8, Summer 2004

Editor: Jim Stephenson

PRESIDENT'S COLUMN

CALL FOR NOMINATIONS

The strength of our Club depends upon the leadership and work of many volunteers. In order to keep our Club vital, it is critical that we think ahead and thoughtfully plan for leadership succession. All current and past Board members have and are playing important roles in administering Club activities which are currently enjoyed by over 246 member rigs (just under 500 people). From my limited personal contact with members, it is clear that we have a great deal of leadership talent in the Club—just waiting to be tapped and offered the opportunity to help our Club continue to develop valuable member services, such as rallies, newsletters, and related activities.

Because we all travel (why else did we purchase an AutoMate?) and because potential Board members may wish to adjust (but not curtail) travel plans during their terms of office, I am making this early call for recommendations for nominees. All incumbents feel we have made our contributions to the Club and that it is in the best interests of the Club to cultivate new leadership. None of us will accept re-nomination, but we will all help with transition. Per our new bylaws I will continue on the Board for one year until March 31, 2006 as Immediate Past President to help effect smooth transition.

For two year terms beginning April 1, 2005:

- President
- Treasurer
- Newsletter/Web Page Editor

We are also seeking a Social Events Committee chair or co-chairs for the Spring 2005 Rally and three volunteers to serve on the Nominations Committee.

Please send your recommendations to me at bgpollack@aol.com (indicate AutoMate in the subject line) or by US mail to 316 Sycamore St., San Carlos CA 94070-2020. And remember it is perfectly appropriate

to volunteer for a position you would be willing to hold. You are also invited to personally contact any one of us to get a clearer idea of what is involved so that you may consider your potential involvement. If you don't hear from one of us immediately, it's because each of us is out keeping our AutoMates and our mates happy on the road this summer!

CLUB INCORPORATED

Good news! Our Club became incorporated as a California nonprofit social and recreational organization on May 3, 2004. We are now awaiting approval from the IRS and Franchise Tax Board for federal and state tax-exempt status.

Betty

Fall Rally Notice

- Mother Lode Fairgrounds
220 Southgate Drive
Sonora, Calif. 95370
Phone 209-532-7428
- In Oct. 7 - out Oct. 10, 2004
- \$110.00 per. rig.
each site has water and elec.
- Reservations:
Sue Tavernetti
238 Rio Vista Drive
King City, Ca. 93930
- Cut off date Aug. 31!
- No refunds after Sept. 5, 2004

Host Committee:

- Jim & Sharon West
- Dale & Joleen Clark
- Pete & Marlene Coffman

See Agenda inside

Fall Rally Agenda

Thursday:

- Wine and cheese, also beer for those who do not drink wine. This is to get reacquainted. Also bring your best jokes (remember mixed company).

Friday:

- Mexican dish. If you are a crafter bring them along you might be able to sell them.

Saturday:

- Pork loin dinner. We will have a White Elephant gift exchange one per rig, not to exceed \$5.00.

Information Package:

- There will be a packet of local actives given to you on arrival.

If you wish to arrive early or stay late, call fairgrounds at the phone number listed in the notice. Cost (\$20 per day) will be separate from the rally registration.

Secretary:

Teresa Gaucin
5593 E. Swift
Fresno, CA 93727
terri_mario@yahoo.com

Treasurer:

Sue Tavernetti
238 Rio Vista Dr.
King City, CA 93930
tavernetti@redshift.com

Newsletter :

Jim Stephenson
11438 Winding Trail Ln.
Dublin, CA 94568
jgsteph@earthlink.net

For Sale

Editor's Note:

Listing a used AutoMate for sale in a Newsletter which only goes to AutoMate owners may sound a little like preaching to the choir. However only we know the pleasure of owning such a fine unit, and perhaps we have an envious friend who wants one, or perhaps you are ready for an up-grade? Let's help our fellow member and spread the word on these units!

1997 AutoMate

It's a 30'RK, 1997, fifth wheel with super slide. It has Air Ride and a solar panel with 20 AMP controller, catalytic heater, hitch receiver, new 16" wheels and tires, new batteries, and many more options. It is super clean and in great condition.

Our cell number is 916-704-1357. We live in the Sacramento area. Our email address is the.ozcos@comcast.net .

Dave and Kathie Orozco

Spring Rally - 2005

As always for the Spring Rally, in Los Banos, close to the factory.

The dates just recently confirmed by the Fairgrounds Committee:

Thurs Mar 31 through Sunday April 3, 2005.

Mark your calendars !

Club Officers

President:

Betty Pollack
316 Sycamore St.
San Carlos, CA 94070-2020
bgpollack@aol.com

Vice President:

Bob Livesey
1550 E. Kamm #143
Kingsburg, CA 93631
relivesey@earthlink.net

ON THE ROAD—DOING WHAT AUTOMATERS DO

What's that song that rings in my ears whenever we go "on the road again"! Our rig has been itching to get out of its storage lot, so we had to accommodate it! This time we are Alaska bound, armed with lots of good information from Jim and Mary Stephenson's seminar at our Fall rally, including the Milepost, (which begins in Seattle), Alaska Camping, and of course, TL.

We high tailed it from the Bay Area to Quesnel, northern British Columbia where we had planned our first two-night stay. Having found a wonderful RV park (Robert's Roost) on a great fishing and canoeing lake, we stayed 5 nights and plan to spend additional days there on our return trip. This park, underrated in TL, is a destination in itself if you like lake front settings, boat dock and rentals, full hookups plus being way off the highway and nowhere near RR tracks, airports, or saw and pulp mills. It's also just about a mile from a brand new Extra Foods supermarket (sort of an upscale Safeway) and that all time favorite—WalMart.

The area's big attraction is the gold rush town of Barkerville. It's an hour's drive on a paved road with a couple of 10% grades. While you can camp near there, most people make it a day trip from Quesnel. We were a bit skeptical before we went, but we found Barkerville to be one of the best ghost towns we have ever visited. The site has 95 authentically restored or original buildings. If you go there, plan sufficient time to take the two 45-minute walking tours of the main town and Chinatown and to attend the 30 minute live theater performance.

Bowron Lakes is 28 km from Barkerville on a gravel road. It's supposed to be very beautiful and have excellent canoeing and lots of wildlife. We plan to "give it a go" on our return trip in September.

The town of Quesnel is very proud of its 5 km paved Riverwalk loop trail that starts at the mouth of the Fraser and Quesnel rivers and follows both rivers as well as part of the town. It's lovely for both biking and walking. There is also a historical (or more aptly hysterical) walking tour of 36 sites in the town—read that literally as sites, since the historical buildings with one or two exceptions have been torn down and replaced with gas stations and other modern businesses. We laughed our way through it in about 15 minutes! The town features a heritage museum which has lots of local memorabilia, but we skipped it. Some friends of ours found it fascinating. We also skipped the paved 3.5 km paved trail in West Quesnel. About five miles out of town is Pinnacles Provincial Park which offers a mile long round trip trail through the woods along a cliff to see some "hoodoos"—tall freestanding limestone formations. While they pale in comparison to those in Utah's national parks, the walk is quite enjoyable.

All in all we found the Quesnel area and particularly Robert's Roost RV Park to be quite a find.

Betty Pollack

Tiny Tips

For enhancing AutoMate ownership!



While some of you may be reluctant to admit that you have dropped your AutoMate onto your tow vehicle, I am not, and I don't believe I am alone. What you see is the "landing pad" solution I created with scrap 2 x 4's and plywood. The most expensive portion of the solution was the turnbuckles used to secure the pad to the Kwik-slide hitch base rails. Those cost \$1.19 each. The truck repair bill the first time was \$5,300. I have since tested the pad – and it works! I have tool boxes (removed for the photo) which fit on either side, so I really don't lose any space.

As always, if anyone wants more details of this or any other "Tiny Tip", please contact the Editor or other Author. If you have ideas to contribute – let's hear them!

Roster Enclosed ! (Mailing only!)

This is the annual "roster edition" of the Newsletter. Although this list should contain only those who have paid their current dues (due June 30), a glitch at the post office may have resulted in some dues payments being returned to the sender during Sue's absence overseas. We are sorry about that, and ask that you resubmit your check as soon as Sue returns on July 4. You might as well include your Fall Rally payment while you are at it.

And if there are any names missing, we will provide an addendum with the next edition. Please let us know if there are any errors so we can make appropriate corrections at that time!

If for some reason you have not paid by the time the next edition goes out, we can only say it has been nice knowing you.