

# AutoMate RV Club

## Newsletter

Issue #10, Winter 2004

Editor: Jim Stephenson

### PRESIDENT'S COLUMN

#### BIENNIAL REPORT TO THE MEMBERSHIP

As my presidency draws to a close, it seems befitting to review the progress we have made over the past two years and to thank the many members who have worked so hard to help our Club achieve its goals. The success of any organization can best be measured by the active involvement of members working together toward common objectives.

Shortly after we were elected, your Board held a weekend retreat to chart our course for the future. We are proud to report that we have accomplished what we set out to do. This has been possible because of the talents and dedication of all Board and Committee chairs and the helpful, cooperative participation of many members.

Here are the highlights and credits:

**We have organized and conducted three well-attended rallies** with excellent speakers at last Spring's rally and enjoyable social activities at all three rallies. Under Vice President Bob Livesey's leadership, our forthcoming Spring rally promises to be equally worthwhile and beneficial. Ross Stewart and his committee are lining up an excellent array of speakers and vendors, Don and Cheri Klusman are planning a BBQ dinner, Al and JoAnn Leal will organize two coffee and donut breakfasts, and Kathy Noble is planning a crafts display and sale. Andy Anderson and his committee will be on hand again to get folks parked. Mark your calendars for March 31-April 3, 2005 and look for registration and program details in this newsletter.

As a result of careful budgeting by Treasurer Sue Tavernetti and Fall 2003 Rally Chair Bill Noble assisted by David Tavernetti, Spring 2004 Rally Chair Bob Livesey and Fall 2004 Rally Co-chairs Dale and Joleen Clark, Pete and Marlene Coffman and Jim and Sharon West, all rallies broke even—almost on the nose! Thanks also to Andy Anderson and his committee for getting everyone parked so efficiently at our Spring rally, to Dave Pollack and his committee for obtaining superb speakers, including our own Hud Hatch, Teresa Gaucin and Diana Storm, and “porchside seminars” conducted by Ed Robinson, Jim and Mary Stephenson and Teresa Gaucin, to Beverly Livesey and her committee for planning the social events, to Ross Stewart and his committee for putting on a great BBQ, and to Lorraine Morgado and her committee for putting on a special omelet-in-a-bag breakfast. And thanks to Ed Robinson for pictures of our Fall 2004 rally which may be viewed on our website.

**We achieved our membership communication goals.** Thanks to the talent and insight of Newsletter/Web Page Editor Jim Stephenson, members have received four newsletters per year each of which is packed full of useful technical information, general club information and feature articles. The members who wrote newsletter copy are too numerous to mention here. In addition with the assistance of Beverly Wolf Jim has assured that information on our website remains current. As I write this Jim and Don Klusman are exploring ways of making our webpage more user friendly. They hope to present more information at the 2005 Spring Rally. Thanks to Secretary Barbara Luthin (2001-2004 term) for compiling and maintaining our membership roster in a format that enables effective membership communication, and thanks to our current Secretary Teresa Gaucin for continuing to maintain an updated roster and assist with the mailings. It's not an easy

task to keep track of folks who are constantly on the move. (Why else did we all purchase AutoMates!)

**We exceeded our membership goals.** The hard work of Julie Stewart and her committee surely paid off. AutoMate purchasers for the past several years were invited to join our ranks and many did, swelling our membership to just under 250 members last year and nearly 240 so far this year. Kathy Noble provided a caring member service by sending “sunshine” cards to members who we learned had lost a loved one or were sick.

**We achieved our financial goals.** As a result of the careful budgeting, accounting, diligence and stewardship of Treasurer Sue Tavernetti and the cooperation of all Board and Committee chairs, the Club continues to be solvent. There should be no need for a dues increase to continue Club operations next year. The Club’s books will be reviewed by an outside financial expert and a report will be presented to the members in a future newsletter.

Sue also managed the remainder of our inventory of Club hats, visors and tee shirts. Under her leadership the Club has just arranged for Land’s End to offer a wider array of Club logo items which can be directly ordered from them. Look for details of this new member service in this newsletter.

**We achieved our incorporation, tax exemption and insurance goals.** My key contribution has been to conduct all the behind the scenes work to incorporate our Club as a non-profit “social club”, to achieve both state and federal income tax exemption, and with David Tavernetti’s assistance to obtain general liability insurance. This was done with minimal legal expense and a reasonable insurance premium.

And finally, now that we are incorporated and insured, **we expect to achieve our Board’s final goal of presenting a totally revised and expanded maintenance manual** to members who attend our forthcoming Spring rally. Many thanks are due to Vice President Bob Livesey and Diana Storm who have undertaken this enormous task. Thanks also to those members who have contributed new information and to Tom Thompsen and Ross Stewart and others who will be reviewing the drafts prior to publication. As in the past this manual is written by AutoMate Club members for the exclusive distribution and use of AutoMate Club members.

It has indeed been my pleasure to serve as your President for the past two years, and it has been my privilege to work with such a dedicated and talented team of Board members and Committee chairs. We have carried on what Bob Cohen and his founding Board began. We have nominated an excellent slate of officers for the future. (See Nominating Committee Report.) We are confident that our successors will enjoy your full support and participation as they move the Club forward by providing valuable membership services and programs.

**Betty**

### NOMINATING COMMITTEE REPORT

The Nominating Committee comprised of David Tavernetti, Mary Stephenson, Julie Stewart and Betty Pollack presents the following slate of nominees for officers:

Two-year terms beginning April 2, 2005:

- For President: Dale Clark
- For Treasurer: Gary Wermuth
- For Newsletter/WebPage Editor: Don Klusman

One year term beginning April 2, 2005:

- For Vice President: Jim West

These candidates will be placed in nomination for action by the members at the April 2, 2005 Annual Membership Meeting to be held from 2-4 pm in the Exhibit Hall, Merced County Fairgrounds, Los Banos CA. Per the bylaws nominations from the floor will be invited.

### IN MEMORIAM

We extend our deepest sympathy to Vice President Bob Livesey on the passing of his wife, Beverly, on December 1, 2004. We will all remember Beverly as a vibrant and vivacious woman of many talents. Beverly was very active in our Club, chairing the social events committee at our last Spring rally, and she was always willing to lend a helping hand. She will be greatly missed.

## Club Officers

**President:** Betty Pollack  
316 Sycamore St.  
San Carlos, CA 94070-2020  
[bgpollack@aol.com](mailto:bgpollack@aol.com)

**Vice President:** Bob Livesey  
1550 E. Kamm #143  
Kingsburg, CA 93631  
[relivesey@earthlink.net](mailto:relivesey@earthlink.net)

**Secretary:** Teresa Gaucin  
5593 E. Swift  
Fresno, CA 93727  
[terri\\_mario@yahoo.com](mailto:terri_mario@yahoo.com)

**Treasurer:** Sue Tavernetti  
238 Rio Vista Dr.  
King City, CA 93930  
[tavernetti@redshift.com](mailto:tavernetti@redshift.com)

**Newsletter :** Jim Stephenson  
11438 Winding Trail Ln.  
Dublin, CA 94568  
[jgsteph@earthlink.net](mailto:jgsteph@earthlink.net)

## **WHO TO CONTACT FOR THINGS**

Changes of address, (phone or email)	Teresa Gaucin
Payment of Dues and Rally Fees	Sue Tavernetti
Purchase of Club Items	Sue Tavernetti (or via the WebPage)
Newsletter/ Webpage	Jim Stephenson
Outreach to New AutoMate owners	Julie and Ross Stewart
<b><u>Spring Rally:</u></b>	
Physical Arrangements	Bob Livesey
Parking Committee	Andy Anderson
Speakers & Vendors	Ross Stewart
Sunshine Committee cards	Kathy Noble
General Inquiries and issues	Betty Pollack

## **REGISTER NOW FOR OUR NEXT SPRING RALLY**

to be held  
March 31-April 3, 2005  
at the Merced County Fairgrounds  
403 F. St., Los Banos CA

## **Tentative Schedule of Events**

All activities take place in the large Exhibit Hall.

**Thursday March 31:** Arrival – Arrival- with wine & cheese, or ice cream social 4:30 to ?

### **Friday April 1:**

- Coffee and donuts: 8:30 am
- Welcome & Educational seminars: 9:00-noon
- Dan Wilson: 2 pm
- BBQ Dinner: [ Bring your own plate & hardware ] 6 pm; then bingo

### **Saturday April 2**

- Coffee and donuts: 8:30 am
- Educational seminars: 9-noon
- Membership Meeting and Elections: 2:00-4:00pm
- Dinner: 6 pm, then games night  
*Bring your favorite board or card game to share*

### **Sunday April 3:** Departure

### **Cost**

- Rig with two persons: \$110
- Rig with one person: \$88
- Each additional person: \$52

**REGISTRATION:** Checks with full payment should be made payable to:

AutoMate RV Club and mailed before March 21 to:

**Sue Tavernetti, Treasurer  
AutoMate RV Club  
238 Rio Vista Dr.  
King City CA 93930**

### **Cancellations:**

- With \$10 cancellation fee up to March 25.
- No cancellations after March 25.

Directions: From Hwy 152 in Los Banos go north on 4<sup>th</sup> St. until it dead ends at F St. To enter the Fairgrounds, turn left, then make two right turns to enter at the back of the Fairgrounds. Our parking committee will direct you to a parking space.

**Re: “Hey Bub – You’ve got a Bent Axel ?”**

Issue #9 AutoMate RV Club Newsletter

worked directly with Tony Costa who was very helpful and invited more trailer business.

Refer questions to:

Tom Thompsen ( [harvey-the-rv@earthlink.net](mailto:harvey-the-rv@earthlink.net) )

Hewitt Alignment Service  
925 South El Dorado Street  
Stockton, California, 95206  
(209) 948-8433  
Anthony (Tony) Costa

After reading the article in the last Newsletter and noticing excessive wear on the inside of my tires, I sought out a shop to check my axels. Each of the front wheels had a camber of negative 2 ½ degrees and the rear wheels had a camber of negative 1 ½ degrees. The axels were bent (or straightened) so that all 4 wheels were given a slightly positive (¼ to ½ degree) camber. Original front wheel toe out (3/16”) and rear wheel toe out (0”) were changed to 1/32” toe in for both front and rear axels.

The cost of checking alignment is \$80 but this cost was folded into the total repair cost, \$320 in my case. I

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**Storage Trays**

A number of members present at the Fall Rally in Sonora had a good look at some interesting storage trays which member Pete Peterson fabricated for his AutoMate. Pete was good enough to provide a description, photos and a sketch of his installation.

*Editor’s Note: The sketch didn’t reproduce just perfectly, and the photos were too abundant for inclusion in this Newsletter. We can however provide a more extensive reproduction of both photos and sketch by snail mail should anyone wish more extensive details on this clever design. Or you can take Pete up on his kind offer to “open up” for interested parties attending the Spring Rally in Los Banos.*



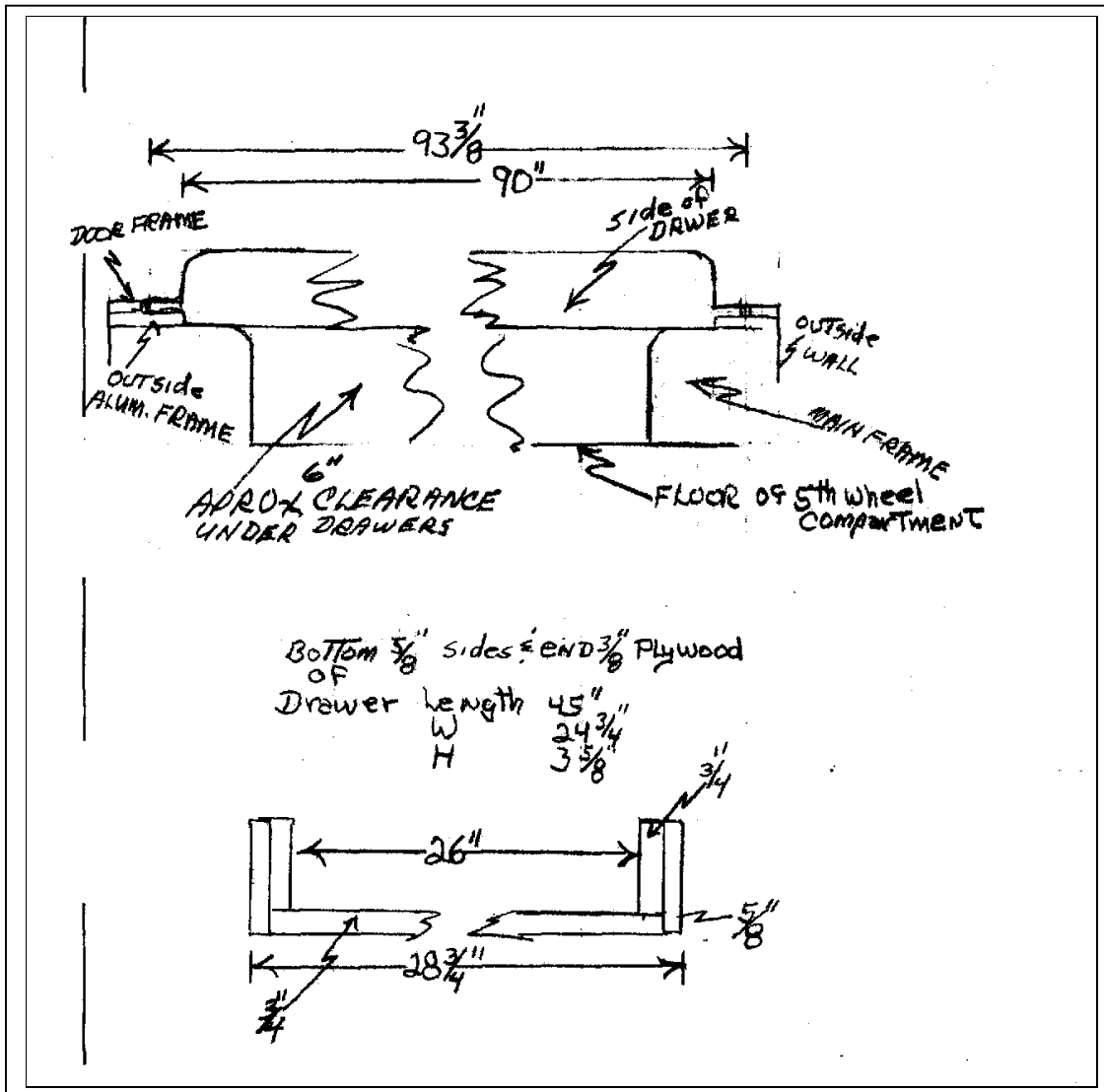
In the meantime, here is how Pete describes the project:

**“Here’s some pictures and a sketch of the storage trays I designed for the front under compartment of my 1996 5<sup>th</sup> wheel. The measurements in the sketch are not to scale. I used a good grade of plywood for the construction of the unit. It consists of two drawers. One slides out on the right side, the other on the left. The drawer slide guides are rated at 300 lbs.**

**Each drawer is capable of holding 3 large plastic tote boxes or whatever you want to fit into them. There is approximately 6” clearance under the units. This area can be used for storage also.**

**If anyone would like more information, I hope to be at the Spring Rally. Our E-mail address and regular address are in the roster under Elmer and Elsie Peterson.**

**Pete**



### Some Internet Links

Rather than fill these pages with a lot of fluff, I offer you these useful links, which I find to be extremely useful sources of general RV knowledge:

- <http://www.ccis.com/home/mnemeth/index.htm>

Which is **Mark Nemeth's** page. Mark is the Guru at Escapes RV Club, and loves to share his extensive knowledge on a wide range of RV related topics, and

- <http://bryantrv.com/searchdocs.html>

This page is offered by **Chris Bryant** who has the most amazing collection of equipment manuals for every refrigerator, air conditioner, furnace and other that you can imagine.

- <http://www.rvservicereviews.com/Index.asp>

Where **RV Owners** Evaluate Service Facilities! More than 290 facilities in the US and Canada have been reviewed as to performance quality – by owners like ourselves.

- <http://www.rvnetworking.com/Index.cfm>

**RVNETWORKING.COM** provides wireless and wired networking and Internet connection services and products for RVs, the home, and small business. A very informative webpage, which has signs of having been kept up to date as things on this issue change so rapidly.

## CLUB ITEMS FOR SALE

*Hurry! While supplies last!*

1 Visor @	\$5.00
17 Baseball Caps @	\$7.00
4 Polo Shirts @	\$15.00
<i>3 adult "S" &amp; 1 youth "XL"</i>	

Send your order with the proper amount  
+ \$2.50 postage to the treasurer:

Sue Tavernetti  
238 Rio Vista Drive  
King City, CA 93930-3514

Or

Save the postage by ordering from the treasurer  
and picking up your order at the Spring Rally in Los  
Banos.

\* \* \* \* \*

## FUTURE CLUB ITEM SALES

*(After January 30<sup>th</sup>)*

**LANDS' END**  
Business Outfitters

**(800) 338-2000**  
*landsend.com/business*

**AutoMate RV Club Logo # 0485920w**  
*(This number is for members only)*

At the October board meeting, it was decided to  
set up our club item sales with **Land's End** direct  
merchants. This gives our members a broader choice of  
good quality items to choose from and also gets the club  
out of sales (except for the remaining stock on hand.)  
We have pretty much approved the logo, but are waiting  
for them to mail us an actual sample. So should be  
finalized before the end of January 2005.

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## **LOOKING AHEAD - 2005 DUES**

Just a reminder that our new membership year  
begins on April 1<sup>st</sup>. The 2005 dues will be due and  
payable at that time. If you are attending the Spring  
Rally, they can be paid then. Otherwise, they can be  
mailed to the treasurer shortly after that.

## CLUB NAME TAGS

- New Vendor -

### **JV CRAFTS**

### **CUSTOM LASER ENGRAVING**

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

Phone: (209) 993-7820

Fax: (209) 983-1885

E-mail: [van-jan@juno.com](mailto: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

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## EASY LASAGNA

- 1 lb. ground beef (or turkey)
- 1 jar (26-30 oz.) prepared spicy spaghetti sauce
- 1 14 oz. can diced tomatoes
- 1 16 oz. carton low-fat cottage cheese (or ricotta)
- 1 egg well-beaten (or ¼ cup egg beaters)
- ¼ cup grated parmesan cheese
- 1 tsp. dried basil leaves (crushed)
- 6 uncooked lasagna noodles
- 2 cup shredded mozzarella cheese

Cook ground meat. Pour off drippings. Add  
spaghetti sauce & tomatoes (with liquid) to meat. Set  
aside. Combine cottage (or ricotta) cheese, egg, Parmesan  
cheese, and basil. Spread 2 cups of beef sauce over  
bottom of 9 x 13 baking dish. Arrange 3 lasagna noodles  
in single layer, pressing into sauce. Spread cottage cheese  
mixture over top of noodles. Sprinkle with 1 cup of the  
Mozzarella cheese. Top with 2 cups beef sauce. Arrange  
remaining noodles in single layer, pressing lightly into  
sauce. Top with remaining sauce. Bake @ 375° for 45  
min. Top with remaining cheese. Tent with foil for  
15 min.

## Are You Connected?

Most would agree that staying in touch with family, friends and the bank via Internet and/or E-mail connection is one of the most troublesome and time consuming tasks of our traveling life. Off to the laundry room hoping that the modem terminal is available, and then that it works, and once you get connected a big sign flashes up and limits (tries to) you to 10 minutes time. And just as someone else shows up expectantly wanting to get you off, you find that your favorite Aunt Maud has sent you a 2,475 kB photo of her new dawg named Jasper. And that E-mail is blocking the 6 other messages which you can't get to because Maud got there first, and her message is going to take about 25 minutes to download! I'm glad she's your aunt, but I have one just like her.

And then if your experience is like ours, we begin to find laundry rooms that don't even have dial-up modem connections, since they have gone modern and installed WiFi which you can use if you have a WiFi card, know how to use it, and have the \$5 per day they often charge for the use of the equipment. So now what do we do?

I have asked any number of members to write this article for the newsletter, and all fade out on me. Then I begin to realize that probably no individual person knows enough about all the fast-changing aspects of this topic to be willing to write an article, which will be judged as obsolete just as soon as I get it printed and distributed.

Then at the Fall Rally I ran into Dick and Anna who solved their problem by using **SnapDialer** connected to their **Verizon** cell phone. *Tell me more!*

Well – first you go to: <http://futuredial.com/index.htm> or the webpage for **Future Dial**. The software is also available at Radio Shack, Best and Fry's, but in addition to the software you need a cable which fits your particular phone, and the local vendors may not have your cable (particularly if your phone is a cheap \$30 version like ours). The SnapDialer Software costs \$29.95 and the cable (cable #22 in our case) adds another \$29.95. If you pop for another \$10 they will deliver this stuff to you the next day.

Now you do an installation process which isn't rocket science, although I admit it took a bit of time, and I had to break down and call the help desk at FutureDial for some assistance. Finally we got our act together, and I can now say that **"We are Connected"**! OK – our connection speed may only be 19.2 k, and we will have to be in a Verizon digital area to do this. On the other hand I won't have to go to the laundry room and wait around – possibly get into a fight over access rights. I will simply sit comfortably in my AutoMate, turn on the computer, hit the FutureDial button, plug in the phone via cable #22 and say "Connect". The connection time will come out of our Verizon minutes, but we have 400 minutes per month daytime, and unlimited after 9:00 pm. If I need to do something more time consuming, I will wait until 9:00 pm

(PST) and take all the time I want. My \$40 per month Verizon plan permits me to stay at it all night if I want.

OK – this isn't a DirecWay satellite system or one of the other high-tech solutions to communications. But it doesn't cost \$1,000 to install and \$100 per month to operate either. Looks like a simple and cost-effective solution to me. Dick tells me that they used it in a high proportion of the places they visited during their east coast trip last summer. We're looking forward to trying it out on our east coast trip which will be underway by the time you read this.

The beauty of this is that if you have any questions about how it's working, you can send us an E-mail as we travel. I'm betting that we will be able to receive your message in the comfort of my favorite chair, and I promise to respond. From the same location! After all – I'm connected!

[igsteph@earthlink.net](mailto:igsteph@earthlink.net)

## Arts & Crafts

<u>WHEN:</u>	AutoMate Spring Rally: March 31 – April 3, 2005
<u>WHERE:</u>	Los Banos Fairgrounds Set up location to be determined
<u>TIME:</u>	To be determined

There has been a lot of interest in having a craft show/sale at our rallies. Therefore, this is just a heads up to all you **"crafty"** people who plan to attend our AutoMate Rally in the spring. We do plan to have an Arts & Craft show and sale during the rally, so this notice is given to allow you time to prepare.

Any ideas, suggestions, comments or questions may be e-mailed to [therollinnoble1@aol.com](mailto:therollinnoble1@aol.com) or telephone 805-934-2886. In the e-mail subject line, please indicate "AutoMate".

**Kathy Noble**