

OCTOBER 2011



the

TTW NEWS

The official publication for the members of Thousand Trails West/FMCA

2012 Dues!

Your dues for the 2012 rally season with TTW are due and payable by December 31, 2011. Bring a check payable to TTW/FMCA to the November rally and you will be right on target! Otherwise mail your check to:

Dottie Aubrey, TTW Treasurer

1352 Maple Valley St.

Manteca, CA 95336

If your dues are not received by the December 31, 2011 deadline, your name, information and photo will not be included in the 2012 Membership Directory!

BE THE FIRST ON YOUR BLOCK...

SEND IN YOUR DUES NOW!



San Benito TT
November Rally Location

San Benito TT

TTW November Rally

You're invited to join the members of Thousand Trails West/FMCA for our last scheduled rally of 2011. It will be held at the beautiful San Benito TT Preserve from Nov 11-13, 2011. Come and join us for a pre-Thanksgiving weekend and share in the fellowship and friendships of TTW! See last page for rally information and reservation form. Your Trailbosses for the weekend will be Dick & Dottie Aubrey, Bill & Gloria Lewis, and help from Ken & Sandy Martin. Hope to see you there!

Save the Date:

January 2012

Jan 15-19, 2012

January rally at the warm and inviting Palm Springs TT Preserve.

March 2012

March 9-11, 2012

March rally will be held at Morgan Hill TT Preserve.

May 2012

May 18-20, 2012

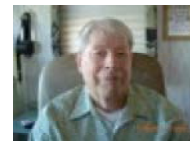
Look forward to the May rally which will be held at Lake of the Springs.



President's Message

Russian River Rally: the weather was warm and calm, the weather was cool and windy. You might say on average the conditions were just right, especially when we were pleased to see Ken and Sandy Martin, Tom and Pat Thornton, Bob and Carol Litfin again after recuperating from illnesses. Welcome back all. Saturday afternoon, the Roaches, Cricket and I drove down to the river and watched a father teaching his kids how to skip a flat rock on the water. This reminded me of a time when I used to spend my early summers of my youth with a favorite aunt in Sonora, CA. I used to walk down to the creek and skip rocks across a small pond. One day, a large frog appeared on the far side of the pond. One very flat rock skipping on the water hit the frog and my aunt and I had frog legs for lunch. Today, the Humane Society would probably file a "cruelty charge" for that event. Just goes to show us how times have changed. The gist of the story is, when times change, we TTWers change with the times. Hope to see all of you at the San Benito Thanksgiving rally, November 11,12,13. Happy Travels.

Lou Francois, President TTW



Photos by Bob Litfin
Photos by Bob Litfin

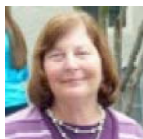
Sunshine Report

Marilyn Johnson reported that Ken is doing better, and improving each day.

I called Bill Crothers and he said Linda is having a rough time right now. Her chemo treatments have been changed to weekly sessions. This is the second week. They are zapping all of her strength. They were sorry to miss the last rally. Her current chemo will continue through October. Linda and Bill could both use your healing prayers and thoughts sent in their direction. A cheery card from you would also be welcomed. As of 10-27-11, Bill reports that Linda is doing well, and chemo will be over soon!

I also received word that Dell Jackson's mother passed away on September 4th. Our condolences to Dell and Judy.

Good health to everyone,
Sharon Roach
TTW Sunshine



Photos by Patty Stahl



September Rally Report Russian River TTW/Naco

photos by Bob Litfin

By Gary Blackburn

We had a nice turnout of 14 member coaches and two guest coaches. Our total attendance was 16 coaches and 30 people. Attendees were: Andy & Marie Alkema, Dick & Dottie Aubrey, Gary & Jean Blackburn, Norman Blecker & Carol Hanson, Lou & Cricket Francois, Ed & Delores Gulbranson, Dale Happel, Jim & Susie Kimmons, Bill & Gloria Lewis, Bob & Carol Litfin, Ken & Sandy Martin, Edythe Olen, Tom & Sharon Roach, Don & Theresa (Terry) Smith, Patty & Doug Stahl, Tom & Pat Thornton. Our club is an eclectic mix of people and it is easy for almost anyone to find several others for friendship and conversation. That, and the success of the outings (Jean and I have never participated at a TTW rally that was not fun), has to be the attraction that brings everyone back to every rally permitted by schedule and health. Guests must see it that way too. Guests Don and Terry Smith, and Susie and Jim Kimmons won't be returning as guests; they are now our newest members.

Jean and I planned a weekend of pleasant fellowship and mild weather. We got both. We didn't plan the weather for those arriving early and it seems the sentiment of early arrivers was that it was hotter than the hinges of Hades. We will try to do better next time for the early arriving people. The Dean of the law school, where Jean wears several administrative hats, does not want her to retire for at least another year; thus our late Friday arrival as she had to work. This was our first-time as Trail Boss for TTW and thus we were of tenderfoot status. The first time doing this job was somewhat intimidating, especially since no one stepped up until almost the last moment as Co-trail Boss. The rally almost became a non-event except for Tom Roach who realized no one had received notification. He got out a 'just in time' notification to everyone. (Thank you Tom.) Our immense gratitude and a huge thank you to Bob and Carol Litfin for their early arrival and getting things organized, as well as doing some of the shopping and preparation of breakfast. Speaking of which, on Saturday we all got off to a good start with really good Litfin coffee and scrambled eggs. Everyone that wanted it toasted raisin bread, and Gary Blackburn prepared hot oat meal in a crock pot. We had all of this again plus cold cereal on Sunday. The Blackburn's were glad to have brought umbrella food covers to try and discourage pesky yellow jackets from helping themselves.

With the exceptionally capable work of Joan, the Super Host lady, contiguous RV sites were reserved. As was provided last year, we had a spacious picnic area with tables that easily accommodated our Friday evening pot luck dinner, breakfasts, and Saturday meeting. It was nice eating under the trees. It was also a necessity as the Russian River TTN preserve has no kitchen, refrigerator (except in the store), or indoor place to set up for a meal. After the meeting Weldon, the manager, spoke with us and provided what amounted to an informative manager's meeting. During our group's stay, other friendly staff members dropped by to chat. While this is a helpful and friendly preserve, the charm is even more extensive than the staff and the tree and shrub studded hills of the preserve; it has its own beach on the Russian River within an easy walk which is a nice place to sit in repose.

The interesting little town of Cloverdale, numerous places of interest in Santa Rosa south of us and Ukiah north of us with wineries galore in between all contribute to this as a superb rally venue. Speaking of wineries, we arranged for however many were....continued on pg 4

Continued from pg 3.....interested in meeting 2:00 PM on Saturday at the Clos du Bois Winery. We obtained for the group half-price wine tasting (\$5 each) and 25 percent off wine purchases. Around ten people joined us and several took advantage of the wine club purchase discount.

We wanted the Saturday dinner outing to be special and affordable. During our preplanning trip to Russian River TTN, we obtained positive and negative reviews of possible dining establishments from staff and frequent visitors to the preserve, and restaurant reviews in the local paper. Our first inclination was a barbeque place in Cloverdale. In the end, in a nondescript restaurant in a nondescript strip mall in Cloverdale we had several conversations with Chris, the young owner and chef of Zini's Diner. We settled on a buffet just for us; he decided to close the restaurant to everyone except our TTN group. If you took time to read the newspaper article on his window, you would see part of what drew us to this location with complementary accolades in print. When it comes to places to eat, it is always the food that brings you back. For \$15 with tax included we started with shrimp cocktail, and then had salad, grilled salmon, and/or chicken in mushroom sauce, vegetables, baked potatoes with choice of trimmings, and pie with ice cream. Several people looked at the place earlier and confessed to not looking forward to dinner. From positive comments afterwards, our research was good, the special deal we struck was good and (happily), one should be reminded to not judge a book by its cover because the food was terrific.

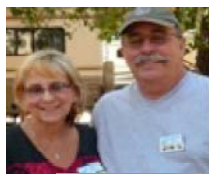
Many of us didn't consider Sunday to be departure day. We and several others left Monday morning and it appeared that a fortunate few stayed even longer. Once again, thanks Tom for getting out the rally notifications.



New Members

Don & Terry Smith -
Sacramento

Jim & Suzie Kimmons
- Manteca



Mark & Linda Wilmoth - Tracy



Photos by Bob Litfin



Wagon Master's Report

By Tom Roach

First off, I am glad to say that the 2012 rally schedule has been approved by the Membership at the Russian River rally. Several of the dates have already been filled so we are off to a good start for 2012. Don't be afraid to let me know what dates you can help out as trail boss. It is simple to do and rewarding as well. So, please help to make the 2012 year, both enjoyable and exciting by signing up at the next rally in November for the month of your choice. We would like to have only two members sign up per rally. If a new member wants to gain experience by being the third member, we will allow them that chance. I do want to thank those that have already signed up. The first rally of 2012 will be at Palm Springs TT following the Western Area rally in Indio. This rally is a gathering to just kick back, be with friends and do things together in the area. We usually find time to have some pot lucks, or find a place to have a meal or two out some place in town as a group. We include those that get into the park as well as those that are in the area and staying at surrounding parks. All members are invited to attend where ever you are staying. Just let someone know where you are and we'll keep in touch, if you like.

Now for the good news, we have trail bosses for the November Rally, 2011. With great help from Bill Lewis, we got a couple couples to sign up to organize the event. I can't share anymore, as plans are still being finalized and sign-ups will be coming out as you read this report!

This is FYI. The Western Area FMCA will be holding their annual rally in Indio at the Fairground Jan 11 – 15th, 2012 with the theme of "*Pirate Adventure.*" If anyone is interested in going to this Area Rally, let us know at the November rally. It's fun and we usually have a good time going as a group.

Fleetwood (FMA) will be holding a rally in Tucson, Mar 19 – 22, 2012 for all Fleetwood Motor Home owners. They will have Techs. there to do minor, qualified repairs on your motor homes, and some new coaches for your viewing. This will be followed by the Good Sam Rally at the motor speedway in Phoenix, Mar 22 – 25, with nightly entertainment, vendors, new motor homes and lots of seminars. If anyone wants to attend these rallies and needs more information, let me know.

Donovan & Colleen Lushenko have a new email address and a new phone number. Please update your member roster.
Phone 916-688-1373

email d.lushenko@frontier.com



Editor's Note:

Thanks for all of your help with this month's newsletter and throughout the past year. I appreciate all your emails with news and information for the newsletter. I will not be able to attend the November rally, so please take pictures and email them to me for the December newsletter. Will miss everyone and hope you have a great rally! Hope to see many of you in Palm Springs in January 2012! I know we have elections at the November rally, so if anyone is interested in being the newsletter editor, please contact the nominating committee. I will continue on in 2012 if no one else wants the position, but feel free to volunteer to "take it away from me" if you have interest in the position.



Patty Stahl, TTW Editor

Minutes of September TTW Meeting

The meeting was called to order by Lou Francois at 10:07, Saturday, Sept. 10.

The Pledge was led by Tom Roach.

National Director's Report: Barbara Schwab was absent. Alternate Director Andy Alkama reported that Barbara Schwab had written an excellent of the August meeting in the September 2011 newsletter.

Secretary's Report:

Carol Hansen said the minutes of the May meeting were read at the July gathering and in the June newsletter.

Treasurer's Report

Dottie Aubrey reported that although there was a discrepancy between income and outgo in the first half of the year, the club as a whole still has sufficient funds.

Vice President's Report: Bob Adkins was absent.

Wagon Master's Report: Tom Roach thanked the Trail Bosses for this Russian River Rally. He reported that the San Benito rally this year was still without volunteers (Nov.11-13). Gloria, Patty, and Sandy volunteered to do the dinner. Bill Lewis will organize simple breakfasts (cereal, toast, coffee, pastry, fruit) and help organize. He took the boxes home with him. We will have a lodge to eat in. The 2012 Rally schedule was discussed (weekdays vs weekends, employed vs retired members, difficulty of getting volunteers) and approved by voice vote (ayes, no nays, no abstentions). Also mentioned was the Trail Bosses' right to change the dates if when the date nears, it becomes difficult or impossible for them to be present on the schedule.

<u>Date 2012</u>	<u>Place</u>	<u>Trail Boss</u>
Jan. 15-19	Palm Springs	<u>no host</u>
March 9-11	Morgan Hill	Francois, Schwab
May 18-20	Lake of the Springs	Lushenko, Lewis-Brent
July 10-12*	Snowflower	Alkema
Sept. 11-13*	Russian River	_____
Nov. 16-18	San Benito	_____

Newsletter Editor's Report: Patty Stahl was praised for her great newsletter. Everyone received one. October 15th is the deadline for next newsletter.

Sunshine Report: Sharon Roach sent around cards for those currently recuperating: Jan Newman, Ken, and condolences to Jim. Stay healthy everyone.

Membership Chair's Report: Bob Litfin reported that we have 4 visitors, Jim and Suzie Kimmons, and Don and Terry Smith. (Kimmons became members on Saturday. Smiths joined on Sunday.) We will check into the free FMCA memberships. So far they weren't needed as everyone is already a member.

Cricket praised Bob for a job well done in responding to requests for information.

Old Business: None

New Business: None

Announcements:

Persons who used to have a motorhome but sold it may be associate members of clubs.

The wine tasting group will meet at 1:30, Sat. The dining group will meet at 6:00 to car pool.

There is a car show in Cloverdale on Saturday. There is a Roots of Motive Power show in Willits.

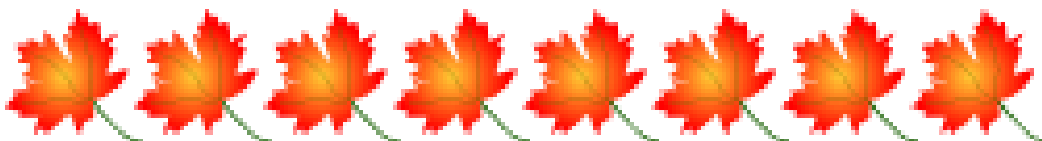
Adjournment: 11:00am

Respectfully Submitted,
Carol Hansen, Secretary



Along the Trail....

Jim & Pat Griffen are heading off to Hawaii for a couple weeks. They hope to see everyone in November. Have a great October and a Happy Halloween! Ken & Sandy Martin went to Casa de Fruita with another group earlier this month. They had a great time. Both are doing well and looking forward to the San Benito rally. They are busy around the house and getting ready to go to Utah in Dec. then to Indio and Palm Springs and the rest of the winter in the warmer weather. Bob & Carol Litfin had a lovely time at the Russian River rally, even though getting up at 6:30 in the morning was a challenge. The wine tasting at Clos du Bois on Saturday was great fun. They enjoyed the night out at Zini's Diner so much. The owner made a complete gluten free dinner for Carol. Great job, Jean and Gary for all your effort. And they were so thrilled that their two invited guests, Don & Terry Smith and Jim & Suzie Kimmons, decided to join our group. They decided to stay for a few days after the rally. One night several of them went out to the Hamburger & Pasta Ranch in Cloverdale. The food was mediocre, the prices outrageous and the service was non-existent. Needless to say, they won't go back there again next year. When they left on Friday, they couldn't get the living room slide to go back in. Fortunately there were several people in the park who offered to help them. As it happened, there was a piece of carpet stuck below the sofa from when they replaced the carpet a year ago, that interfered with the slide. After about an hour or so, they got the slide back in. When they got back home, they had to send the coach back to the shop. They somehow got the piece of carpet out and replaced the existing bolt, after drilling a new hole, with a much larger bolt. After the Russian River Rally, Tom & Sharon Roach stopped at the Delta for some delicious fish, and French Camp for some golf, wine tasting at Delicato Winery, and ice cream at Ghirardelli's. In October, they drove to Pahrump, NV. At the Winery, they enjoyed the annual Grape Stomp, and ate lunch in the restaurant. (For those of you who have WH, Charleston Peak is in foreclosure, but it is in full operation.) They also took a few side trips in the car. One day they went past Las Vegas and drove across the Hoover Dam Bypass – in memory of Pat Tilman and Gov. Mike O'Callaghan. They also walked across on the viewing path, and looked DOWN at the dam, and the old road. Another day they drove the entire Death Valley loop, and stopped at Scotty's Castle. They took two tours, and were fascinated to learn its construction history. In the 1920s -1930s, the owner used his engineering degree knowledge to use nearby flowing water to make electricity, had an indoor refrigerator and freezer, indoor bathrooms, and solar panels outside to heat their water. Some of the handmade tiles came from Spain. Railroads and wagons brought in all of the supplies. It cost several million dollars to build their vacation home.Patty Stahl has been working at the EJ Pumpkin Patch in Livermore which is being operated on her cousin's ranch. Many of the relatives came into town to help run the event. She and Doug were in Meeks Bay in August to attend the wedding of Doug's son, Jon. The wedding was held on the beach and the reception was in the campground, so many of the guests stayed the weekend in their RV's in the campground. They will be at an outing in Pismo Beach the same weekend as our November rally, so will be unable to attend. Mavis Ellis had knee revision surgery on her artificial knee.



TTW November Rally

San Benito TT Preserve

Come join us for TTW's annual Holiday Celebration Rally at
the beautiful San Benito TT Preserve.

November 11-13, 2011

November 11-13, 2011

We will be camping in Section D

FRI - 5pm Happy Hour

6pm - Potluck Dinner (Adult Lounge)

7pm - Card Bingo

bring 3 of each: quarters, dimes, nickels, & a \$1 bill

SAT - 8:30am - 9am - Continental Breakfast

At Host's campsite, weather permitting.

10am - TTW Business Meeting

5pm - Happy Hour (Adult Lounge)

6pm - Dinner \$8 per person (Adult Lounge)

7pm - Evening Entertainment - Bring a

Thanksgiving Decoration for a raffle.

SUN - 8:00am - Coffee

8:30am - Continental Breakfast

At Host's campsite, weather permitting.

Please tear off and return to: Bill & Gloria Lewis, 9146 Rundelay Wy, Sacramento, CA 95826. Please RSVP by Nov 5, 2011.

NAME _____

EMAIL _____

PHONE _____

Rally Fee \$4 per person _____

Sat night dinner - \$8 per person _____

Total Enclosed _____