

## CAMPING CORNER 2017

### Holiday Campout and Installation of Officers December 2017 Hesperia, CA by Sue Craft

Our holiday campout was December 4th – 6th at Desert Willow RV Resort in Hesperia, and hosted by the 2017 SRH Officers. It was attended by 24 members and one dinner guest. There were 5 rigs, and the other members either stayed in hotels or visited for the day. Attendees included: \*Officers – \*Dick & Lynne Miller, \*Lou & Darla Figueroa, \*Linda & Jim Preston, \*Ed & Glenda Schnelbach, Members – Paul & Sue Craft, Jeff & Jo Fort, Margie Hoffman, Mary Holzgang, Roger & Carole Kepner, Phil & Amy MacBride, Dan & Adrienne Sherwood, Associate Members – Bill & Alma DeSmith and Glenn & Charlotte Schmitt. Members gathered for happy hour on Monday and enjoyed a festive start to the campout with holiday music and decorated tables. What a joy to be able to gather again with the SRH family!

On Tuesday, the 7:30 AM Barnyard Net question was — Since many of our members are getting older and having to sell their RV's, what do you think about going to campout locations that have cabins on site or motels nearby? The responses were very positive, and a few locations were mentioned for future campouts that could accommodate everyone.

A continental breakfast was followed by Zello training by Paul Craft, both for the group as well as one-on-one assistance. Darla Figueroa brought craft supplies for the ladies to make a terra cotta gingerbread man candy dish. Happy hour started off the evening festivities.

Before dinner, Linda Preston shared a Tribute to our Silent Keys. Everyone enjoyed an excellent turkey dinner, prepared by a caterer from Hemet. Following the banquet, the 2018 officers were sworn in by one of our past presidents, Bill DeSmith. Outgoing officers Lou Figueroa, Linda Preston, Ed Schnelbach, Dick Miller Incoming officers installed by Bill DeSmith: Lou Figueroa, Linda Preston, Darla Figueroa, Ed Schnelbach, Sue Craft

Wednesday morning started off with a 7:30 AM Barnyard Net question —What are you doing for the holidays? The outgoing officers provided a delicious breakfast, with plates filled with scrambled eggs, sausage, pancakes, and fresh fruit. After the chapter meeting, everyone had free time until the evening festivities.

Everyone participated in the Dogs for Better Lives (formerly Dogs for the Deaf) charity fundraiser, where 100% of funds collected will go to the non-profit organization. Members provided many goodies for the raffle, including two beautiful handmade quilts created by Carole Kempner. Carol has been donating quilts for years! Glenda Schnelbach was extremely excited to win, since she has been trying to win one of Carole's quilts for 14 years! Altogether, including other contributions throughout the year, our chapter's donations will be over \$2,500 this year. Thank you, Glenda Schnelbach, for organizing another successful event.

New this year was a table centerpiece competition where members got to vote on their favorite, and Darla Figueroa was the winner! The traditional Ugly Sweater Contest was judged by Roger and Carole Kempner, and winners Phil MacBride and Sue Craft won \$2 million dollars each!

The evening culminated in final announcements by president Dick Miller, and consumption of delectable desserts (Chocolate Peppermint Roll Cake & Pumpkin Cheesecake Roll Cake) made by Darla Figueroa.

Thank you to all of the 2017 officers and their spouses for a wonderful holiday campout! View more photos at SRHams.org in the 2017 Album - Hesperia Holiday Party

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### Sierra Trails Campout, California City by Linda Preston

#### Monday, 30 Oct

Arrivals were greeted by Lou and Darla.

- Dick & Lynne Miller KJ6W/W6LMM
- Roger & Carole Kepner W6SQQ/K6PUP
- Lou & Darla Figueroa KA6VVD/XYL
- Jim & Linda Preston N6VH/WA6HGA
- Mike & Lynne Smith KG6VFL/KM6DRF

- Carl & Beverly Ferree WA6PPG/KC6HSW
- Dan & Adrienne Sherwood W6DAS/WA6YEO
- Ed & Glenda Schnelbach K6EAS/XYL
- Max & Doris Smith KG6KDF/XYL
- Frank & Jan Clements W6GZI/KD6HYE
- Bill Williford & Marilyn Hooton WA6IVI/XYL
- In the clubhouse, the travelers enjoyed happy hour and unwinding from their road experiences.

### **Tuesday, 31 Oct**

Lou got the day started with the question of the day – what has been your favorite SRH campout? Soon it was time for the caravan to the Tehachapi Loop. Observers from around the world come to Tehachapi specifically to witness the most heavily trafficked single-track main line in the country and the engineering marvel that is the Tehachapi Loop. Along its winding path up the northwestern slope of the mountains, the track makes horseshoe curves at Caliente, Allard, and Keene, and passes through 18 tunnels. At the Loop, the line climbs in a spiral over itself gaining 77 feet of elevation. This engineering feat has been named one of the railroad wonders of the world. The 68 miles of track between Bakersfield (elevation 400 feet) and Mojave (elevation 2,700 feet) crests the summit at 4,025 feet. At the loop we met several volunteers from the Tehachapi Rail Road Museum. They graciously volunteered to open the museum for us. **Our special thanks to Art Chianelli, Robert Westover, Doug Pickard, Dennis Storms, and Fred Motter for their time and knowledgeable tour.**

Later in the afternoon we enjoyed Happy Hour in the clubhouse. There were lots of World Series discussions.

### **Wednesday, 1 Nov**

Lou's Barnyard question asked us to describe our first RV. Everyone brought a breakfast dish to the Pot Luck Breakfast. We have some really good and creative cooks in this group.

The Chapter Meeting was presided over by Dick Miller.

At 1:00 pm everyone gather for the Corn Hole Toss Championship Tournament (aka bean bag baseball). Photos revealed that the Guys outscored the Gals. Look for rematches at future campouts.

While the ladies worked on a pumpkin craft led by Darla in the clubhouse, the gentlemen solved the problems of the world on the lawn with their favorite beverages.

Following naps we caravanned to dinner at La Conquista Mexican Restaurant, California City. More World Series discussions were held.

### **Thursday, 2 Nov**

Lou's question of the day – Would you be interested in a campout at the Antique Tractor and Engine show in Vista? We had an early caravan for tours of Rio Tinto Borax Museum, Twenty Mule Team Museum and Saxon Aerospace Museum all located in Boron. The museum was very interesting and our docent shared much of the history he experienced in his 41 years working in the pits.

Many thanks to Lou and Darla for all their planning to make this a fun campout.

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## Sam's Radio Hams Whitney Classic Campout September 22-27, 2017 By Sue Craft



One of the service projects Sam's Radio Hams (SRH) is involved with is to provide communications support for the Summit Adventure (Christian Out-door Ministry) Whitney Classic Bicycle Rally fundraiser. SRH has been supporting the event for at least 25 years! Frank and Jan Clements are among the original, and still active supporters.

The event used to run from Badwater, Death Valley (-266 ft. below sea level) to the highest point in California, Mt. Whitney at 14,505 ft. Now it is based out of Lone Pine, and SRH provides communications support and tracking of the riders from Lone Pine (3,727 ft.) to the top of Horseshoe Meadows (10,000 ft.), out to Darwin CA (4,790 ft.), and then to Whitney Portal (8,374 ft.). The riders cover 135 miles and 14,937 feet of elevation change. Radio stations were strung from Lone Pine, half way to Horseshow Meadow, to the top at Horseshow Meadow, down to Keeler, to Darwin, halfway to Whitney Portal, and up to Whitney Portal. We had communications support at 10 different locations, which included Net Control at Lone Pine, to the farthest and most remote point out at Darwin, and to the highest point at ending location at Whitney Portal. Sam's support and gear (SAG) stops were supported by 26 SRH members: Mike & Lynne Smith, Bret & Michelle Minor, Ed & Glenda Schnelbach, Dick & Lynne Miller, Paul & Sue Craft, Lou & Darla Figueroa, Bob & Norma Grimes, Bruce Klawson, Les & Matthew Cobb, Tom & Carol Gleaton, Frank & Jan Clements, Phil & Amy MacBride, and Mary Holzang. Radio support was provided by Sam's "Hammers" and the gear (food) part was provided by Sam's Outhousers group.

Supporting the Whitney Classic has been the main focus of this outing, but some members gather before for dry camping at Tuttle Creek (rustic conditions with a glorious view of the High Sierra and Mt. Whitney), and all met up after the rally at Boulder Creek RV Park for 4 nights of "luxury camping" with full hookups. The Sunday Whitney Classic free pizza party for riders and volunteers was held at the Lone Pine City Park. A few of our SRH members were recognized for their many years of volunteer efforts toward the event. Organizer Ed Schnelbach presented Phil & Amy MacBride and Mary Holzang the perpetual "Dick & Marcia Bruno Award" award for their many years of dedication to the event. Tom Gleaton was recognized as well. He had heart surgery a few weeks before the ride, but still offered to help with the ride with no conditions except elevation.

While camped at Boulder Creek, we enjoyed meeting new friends from the Big Bear Sam's Club. We look forward to future campouts together with this group. Members enjoyed relaxing, exploring places such as Cerro Gordo Mine, the

Bristlecone Pines, Owens Lake, Manzanar National Historic Site, the nearby museums, spotting migrating American White Pelicans overhead, as well as viewing some fall color.

We enjoyed the Mexican dinner at the Boulder Creek clubhouse. The healthy kale salad a special treat enjoyed by most of us! The apple pie and ice cream were a hit!

The morning Barnyard Net was hosted by Ed Schnelbach and he asked a fun question... "What was your most memorable camping experience weather-wise?" Many members answered "Death Valley in the wind!"

The nightly campfires at Dick and Lynne's campsite was fun, and attendees shared stories and had fun exploring the possibilities of another way to keep in touch... Zello!

Thanks again to our hosts... Ed and Glenda and Dick and Lynne!

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### **Clio CA Campout - August 2017 by Roger and Carole Kepner**

**Tuesday**, August 8th, was arrival day, but we were happy to welcome Ed & Glenda Schnelbach four days early and most of the rest a day early. All attendees were in place for Happy Hour.

On **Wednesday** after the Host's Coffee Bar, most of the group made their way to Quincy for the Plumas County Fair. The Fair opens with Senior Day, and all of us "old timers" get in for a small donation. A very nice free lunch was provided for us oldsters with entertainment energetically performed by a children's dance company.

**Thursday** brought the Host's Break-fast where Carole and Glenda flipped pancakes, and Lynne Smith served up sausages: "two, three or four?"

The Chapter meeting was ably chaired by VP Lou Figueroa, and was a model of member decorum. For the most part, we gave him a break.

Dinner for nearly everyone was at Neighbor's BBQ in Cromberg. I didn't hear any com-plaints, and there were lots of satisfied belches heard and BBQ stained fingers visible.

**Friday**, after the Host's Coffee Bar, three carloads of intrepid travelers followed the host's Jeep to Spring Garden where we turned off on Squirrel Creek Road (24N46) and made our way over lots of dirt road through pine forest to lovely Genessee Valley. Gratefully transitioning to pavement, we proceeded to Taylorsville and lunched at their congenial campgrounds. We then took the dirt China Grade Road up to Mt Hough and visited Wayne, the fire lookout, who showed us great National Forest hospitality and answered all of our questions. Mt Hough was like "old home week" for Jim Herd and Jennifer Ware, who, in their young and foolish days, used to travel from Silicon Valley to jump off the mountain strapped into hang gliders. We followed the China Grade Road down to blessed pavement near Quincy, and returned to Clio where we enjoyed our last Happy Hour together. Carole and I enjoyed hosting the campout and our only regret was seeing everyone leave. Thanks to all of our willing volunteers who pitched in to help. Sam's Radio Hams are the greatest!

Roger, Carole & Roxie

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## Camping Corner Dana Point Yacht Club - July 21, 2017



As most of you know we forego campouts mid-summer due to the unavailability of RV camp sites, and the hot temperatures. So, like last year, we met for an ad hoc campout in Dana Point, this time at the Dana Point Yacht Club. 18 people were in attendance in a dining room over-looking the Dana Point Harbor. In attendance were past members that no longer have an RV so it was nice to see and visit with them.

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## Columbia California — June 6-12, 2017 by Sue Craft

Columbia 49er RV Park refers to themselves as a quiet, friendly, rustic haven, and it's true! This was the location of our chapter's June trip. We had unlimited access to the —Stock Barn|| where we had use of the club room, with kitchen facilities, BBQ, etc... which worked out well for gatherings such as breakfast, dinner, Happy Hour, and the SRH meeting.

Organizer Bill Williford was pleasantly surprised with the turnout, and was very appreciative of his co-hosts (Mike & Lynne Smith, and Steve & Lindsay Eddy) for jumping in to provide coordination assistance to make this event greatly successful. Attendees included: Bill Williford, Marilyn Hooton, Mike & Lynne Smith, Steve & Lindsay Eddy, Les and Matthew Cobb, Lou and Darla Figueroa, Roger & Carol Kepner, Dick & Lynne Miller, Ed & Glenda Schnelbach, Paul & Sue Craft, Bill & Alma DeSmith, Phil & Amy McBride, Jim & Linda Preston, and guests Michael & Betsy Clark, and Mel and Marla Savery.

Here is a timeline of activities, some of which were done as a group and others individually, as well as activities in general.

**Monday** - Our hosts greeted everyone as they arrived and hosted Happy Hour/Dinner to the tired travelers and provided veggies, cheese n crackers, followed by grilled hot dogs, baked beans, and fruit salad. Members who were familiar with the area offered suggestions on places to visit.

**Tuesday Happy Hour**—Everyone showed up with their favorite beverage, and A-K brought light appetizers to share. The Stock Barn erupted in chatter, with everyone sharing their adventures of the day.

**Wednesday Morning** – We walked into the Stock Barn as the aroma of fresh cooked sausage and French toast filled the air. Mike & Lynne Smith, and Steve & Lindsay Eddy were cooking up a scrumptious breakfast for everyone. The room was festive as each table sported a couple of flags, all mounted on wooden dowels and anchored in wood bases handcrafted by Mike Smith, all in honor of Flag Day. Each camper group got to take one home. Thanks Mike! Breakfast was followed by the SRH Meeting.

**Wednesday Evening** – Our big group went to El Jardin, a Mexican restaurant for dinner, and dined outside on the patio. Laughs were had as a large rooster flew into the bush and started crowing, followed by him flying high into the pine tree! Who knew Roosters could fly? Perhaps he was protesting against those of us who had chicken for dinner. It also happened to be Lynne Miller's birthday! She got to celebrate with her wonderful SRH friends and had yummy birthday cake!

**Thursday Happy Hour** - Not only did people share their adventures of the day, they also had fun talking about past trips, future trips, craft projects, and as always - amateur radio. Members L-Z provided the goodies.

**Columbia State Historic Park** –Just down the road from the RV Park one could step back into time, Gold Rush time! Highlights included the park museum, candy store, ice cream parlor, stagecoach ride, and exhibits of the old-fashioned pharmacy, and the scary dental office. Not to be missed, were the old schoolhouse, and cemetery.

**Railtown 1897 State Historic Park** – This park houses 4 steam locomotives, and one of the last remaining round-houses in America. The site has been in continuous operation since 1897, when the short-line railroad brought lumber and ore out of the foothills, and brought passengers and goods in. The site is sometimes called The Movie Rail- road as many shows were filmed here, including Petticoat Junction.

**Calaveras Big Trees State Park** – Sequoia groves are scattered through the western side of the Sierra Nevada mountains. A large grove of these colossal sized trees, up to 325 feet high, 33 feet in diameter, and up to 2, 000 years old can be found at this park.

**Ironstone Vineyards** – The vineyard was located in the little gold rush town of Murphys. A gourmet deli lunch was available and a free tour, which consisted of visiting the Heritage Museum (where a 40-pound gold nugget was on display), touring the wine making facilities (including the underground caves where the barrels of wines are stored), visiting the beautiful gardens where weddings are often held, viewing the enormous outdoor amphitheater, enjoying listening to the pipe organ in a room designed just for it, and of course, wine tasting.

**Geocaching** – Several in the group were into hunting for Geocaches. What is that? It's modern day treasure hunting! Wherever you may go, chances are there are geocaches to be found. You only need a GPS radio receiver (typically built into modern day cell phones), and an account on geocaching.com.

**Friday** - Most everyone headed home. Roger & Carol Kepner headed to Clio where they will stay for the next 4 months and host the August campout.

Thank you to our hosts, Bill Williford & Marilyn Hooton, and co-hosts Mike & Lynne Smith, and Steve & Lindsay Eddy. It was a great trip!

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## Santee CA, May 2017 by Sue Craft



Santee Lakes... FUN! Who knew that one could have so much fun camping at an RV Park inside a city with over 50,000 people and feel like you're camping in a remote place? The park consists of 7 lakes and is great for fishing, kay- aking, birding, biking, and walking. It's a place of beauty and solitude — at least midweek in May! I'm pretty sure the place fills up on weekends and holidays.

Thank you to our wonderful hosts, Jim & Linda Preston, Phil & Amy McBride, and Mary Holzgang for organizing such a fun outing! They arrived a day ahead in the midst of a huge rainstorm, where little rivers flowed and campsites flooded. Fortunately, drainage was good and for the rest of us that arrived on Monday, all was dry. Attendees for this trip included: Jim & Linda Preston, Phil & Amy MacBride, Mary Holzgang, Lou & Darla Figueroa, Ed & Glenda Schnellbach, Dick & Lynne Miller, Larry & Linda Johnston, Tom & Carol Gleaton, Paul & Sue Craft, Max & Doris Smith, Mort & Carol Eriksen, Bill & Alma DeSmith, and Glenn & Charlotte Smith.

**Monday** - Our hosts greeted everyone as they arrived, pointed them towards their campsites, and welcomed us with a goodie bag full of information. They hosted Happy Hour, and provided pizza, salad, and ice cream, followed by a fun dice game involving quarters.

**Tuesday** - The net control operator for the Barnyard Wake Up was Mary Holzgang and her question was "How did you get inter- ested in ham radio and where did you get your license?" In the morning, Darla Figueroa led the ladies in a fleece blanket making project while the men hung around the campsite and had technical discussions and solved the problems of the world.

Linda Preston organized a "free" afternoon tour for 14 of us at the Taylor Guitar Factory in Santee. We saw all of the manufacturing steps, starting with lumber drying outside to the finished guitar, then tuning and matching up to the guitar case. We even saw "Buffy the Robot" in action. We had a special guest at Happy Hour, Debby Gaarde, aka the "hat lady". She took orders for SRH caps, with a next day delivery service.

**Wednesday** - Net control operator Jim Preston's morning question was "Have you played a musical instrument and what is your favorite kind of music?" It was discovered that many ham radio operators have musical talent and instruments played included trombone, flute, oboe, clarinet, drums, mandolin, accordion, harmonica, organ, and piano, and singing included opera, choir, and singing to the dog. An 8:30 AM potluck breakfast occurred before the 9:30 AM SRH meeting. Later activities included men vs. women in Bean Bag Baseball (the men won). Paul and Sue Craft went hiking at nearby Mission Trails Regional Park. Dick & Lynne Miller went to the Model Trail Museum at Balboa Park. Larry and Linda Johnston enjoyed a walk around Santee Lakes. Debby Gaarde returned at Happy Hour with embroidered SRH caps and her husband Bill. Debby (KM6GZZ) recently earned her ham license. She had her very first QSO this evening with Jim Preston and was very excited when Jim presented her with her first QSL card, and quizzed her on some of the lingo... QSO, QSL, 73, and 88's. Many attended the Campground Potluck for dinner.

**Thursday** - The Barnyard Wake Up was conducted by Mary Holzgang and her question of the day was "If you have a ham radio license, how do you use it outside of campouts?" Answers included DXing, special projects such as Raspberry Pie, and the humorous one, backing up the RV! Afterwards, the Figueroas, Millers, and Crafts took the trolley from Santee to the Seaport Village station and had a short walk to the USS Midway Aircraft Carrier. A self-guided audio tour was included in the admission fee. While a docent led tour for a group of 9 or less is \$300, our Lou Figueroa, a Navy Senior Chief Petty Officer retiree, gave us an awesome tour for free!

At Happy Hour, we were joined by KS6L Forrest, Dolores and PC. Forrest encouraged the Prestons to join SRH in the late 80's. We learned that Forrest was Elmer to another visitor, Floyd AF6BC. Now Floyd assists Forrest with net operations.

**Friday** - Most everyone headed home. Santee Lakes is a wonderful campground with activities for all ages and is close to many San Diego attractions, as well as protected open spaces. I'm looking forward to returning. Thanks again to our hosts for introducing us to this camping paradise.

### **Hemet CA, April 2017 by Mary Holzgang**

Our April camping adventure was a Red, White and Blue extravaganza at the So. Cal. Good Sam Samboree in Hemet. There were only 7 of us but we were there and enjoyed!!! The Millers, MacBrides, Holzgang and of course the Schnelbachs (who are on Staff) participated in all the activities we could and helped where we could. Driving the golf cart shuttle was a wonderful way to meet other Sams and spread the word about Ham Radio. The weather was warm and there was time to enjoy swimming and a little golf ball pushing. The staff had games, vendors, food and music all planned for our pleasure. Mary and Lynne watched the Dog Show and decided Lynne should enter Fiona next year. We were awarded a flag for being the state's highest contributor for Dogs for the Deaf. We also were able to have a long chat with Wanda, the new DFD spokesperson, and hear about the plans to train dogs for Autistic and Assistance needs.

### **Quartzsite AZ, January 2017 by Sue Craft**

What a great turnout! What fun!! Did you know this was the 20th Annual Quartzfest Event? The event continues to grow every year and this was one of the best! While the "official SRH campout was scheduled for the 22nd – 26th, campers arrived and left at various times but most everyone was there for "Grill It Night", the SRH meeting, and "Hobo Packet Night."

SRH campers consisted of Dick & Lynne Miller, Lou & Darla Figueroa, Ed & Glenda Schnelbach, Larry & Linda Johnson, Steve & Lindsay Eddy, Mike & Lynne Smith, Don & Barbara Schleuse, Don & Linda Mankin, Carl & Beverly Ferree, Dan & Adrienne Sherwood, Frank & Jan Clements, Paul & Sue Craft and guests of Dick & Lynne Miller, Cathy Hyland and Bob Robinson. Cathy is studying for her license and she and Bob will soon be members of the SRH family.

The weather was a bit cooler and windier than last year, but it was fun as usual. Some of our members took advantage of the events offered at Quartzfest, such as: Pass that Ham Test, Rough Rider Jeep Run, Cast Iron Cooking, Jewelry Making, as well as the annual Hobo Stew Fest.

Besides all the activities that Quartzfest had to offer, many campers went into town for all the crazy fun such as the Big Tent RV Show, Swap Meets, Ice Cream and Rocks, as well as other nearby places to explore such as the Kofa & Cibola National Wildlife Refuge.

While Quartzfest had an "official" Drone Show on Friday, some of our SRH folks (Dick Miller, Paul Craft, Dan Sherwood, and Lou Figueroa) brought their drones of various sizes and gave us all a great demo. Paul had a camera on his drone and took videos.

Food is always part of SRH campouts! For Grill it Night, everyone brought something to toss on the grill, as well as a side dish to share. Of course, there were yummy appetizers too! Hobo Packet Night was fun, and I think every Hobo Packet was different, and all looked delicious!



Some of us that planned to head North towards home on Friday decided to leave Thursday afternoon since the weather forecast for Banning on Friday was for 35-45 MPH winds with gusts to 70 MPH! Just a reminder... pay attention to weather forecasts and always be flexible with your plans.

I hope everyone had fun! We look forward to seeing everyone at the next SRH campout in Banning CA.