

Camping Corner 2015

Midland Campout November 2-6, on the slabs by Lindsay Eddy kd7rox

The Midland campout was fun but smaller this year compared to past years. We had a total of 7 rigs, all coming and going at different times. The weather started out nice, then got windy and then calmed down a bit. We even had a little bit of rain on Wednesday! There were camp fires and happy hours as we watched the sun cast beautiful shadows and colors on the mountains! There were jeep rides and quad rides on what use to be the old train tracks. Some went to the old mine to see what all the earth moving was about. Word has it that the Burkarts stopped in to see Frank and Jan. As usual, Midland is a place like no other. We always enjoy our time there!

Lone Pine Camp-out September 21 - 30, 2015 by Ed & Glenda Schnelbach

The new Summit Adventure bike ride route was great for both the Sammers and Hammers, communications between sites went well with only minor problems. Net control could hear all SAG stops. It started Friday with our assignment meeting Dick Bruno was well prepared and set up for testing.

Saturday morning woke up bright and early for a great breakfast at the VFW Hall; those nice ladies started at 4:00 am preparing our meal. Then onto our locations (SAG's) for set up. The weather cooperated this year, no rain, snow or high winds.

Sunday the pizza party at noon with awards went well. The Riders raised approx. \$60,000 for Summit Adventure and for their programs. The 2015 Huddy Award for this Year went to Bob & Kristi Bailes for the Sammers and Ed & Glenda Schnelbach for the Hammers.

At Boulder Creek RV all our RV's were in there sites before noon, so when we returned from the pizza party we could relax until the happy hour.

Monday morning coffee and then the debriefing. Afterwards Dick Miller took us on a tour to the MT. Whitney Fish Hatchery the home of the Golden Trout and then a picnic on the grounds.

Tuesday morning Sam's Radio Hams Business meeting all is well with our Chapter. In the evening we had our dinner. Thank You to all who helped Glenda preparing the food and to Dan & Beverly for the banana splits.

Wednesday a day to relax, some went to the museums others stayed to relaxed.

Thank you to all that were able to help with the bike ride and the camp out this year.

Coo-dos to Dick Bruno for filling in at the last minute as ride coordinator.

Thank you from Host's and Co-host's

Ed & Glenda Schnelbach

CLIO CAMPOUT August 11,12,13, 2015 by Mike Smith

Bulletin: Sams Radio Hams Descend on Rivers Edge RV Park, Clio CA

Clio Campout, SRH's August gathering:

Roger and Carol Kepner (who had been up in Clio for over a month) and Frank and Jan Clements (who arrived a week early) were there to greet all the campers on Monday. In the early afternoon we all started trickling in with the last rig pulling in just as we were enjoying happy hour. Rivers Edge RV Park is on the south shore of the Middle Fork of the Feather River at Sulphur Creek. Both the river and the creek actually had water running while we were there! The entire park is heavily forested with the ground covered with pea-gravel and most sites feature a concrete patio slab you can park next to.

Tuesday morning started off with Steve and Mike cooking up a yummy breakfast for everyone on the grills. It was french toast, sausage, fresh fruit (delicious home grown peaches and grapes from the Smith's), orange juice and of course coffee along with wonderful healthy waffles that Jan made on her waffle iron!

After the Club Meeting, some of the folks stayed at camp and worked on an antenna project, others kicked back and relaxed, while still others went to explore the surrounding areas.

Tuesday evening at dusk on the way back from a wonderful Mexican dinner in Sierraville, we saw a good sized cougar crossing the road. Later we concluded the mountain lion/cougar was a little larger than the specimen in the exhibited in the museum at Plumas Eureka State Park!



The rest of the week was very busy with lots of activities going on. There was the Plumas-Sierra County Fair in Quincy which had many exhibits to see and a free senior lunch on Wednesday! Then there was the concert at the Mill Pond in Graeagle.



Every Wednesday the proprietor of the surprisingly compact Graeagle Yacht Club (aka The Outpost) sponsors a lakeside concert. A group of us went to listen to music while having dinner and dessert in a very pretty setting overlooking the lake. The promoter provided luxury seating, the largest of which was grabbed by our host Steve!

This week the concert was provided by local performers aged 7 thru 56! The concert master was a classically trained concert violinist who decided it was a hell of a lot more fun to play down-home country fiddle. She has spent the last good many years teaching violin in the community. It was a nice night out which made the concert very enjoyable.



Bulletin: Sams Radio Hams Descend on Rivers Edge RV Park, Clio CA

There was golf to play, museums to visit, hiking trails to explore, cycling, boating and canoeing, and roads to explore in the surrounding areas. There are over 100 lakes to explore in Lake Basin, just a few miles west of Clio. Quincy offers a really neat museum. Portola offers an exceptional rail museum that will let you drive one of several locomotives on their 6 mile track.

Frank and Jan Clements had a head start on seeing the sights since they had arrived in Clio early. Jan says they went to see the Lake Basin Petroglyphs where the Maidu Indians lived at least 1000 to 2000 years ago. They went to Frazier Falls where there was no water, they drove around Lake Davis, and they went to see the Sierra Hot Springs.

On Thursday we had an open air group pizza dinner at the Brewing Lair the finest local brewery near Blairsden (a suburb of Clio). A few lucky souls actually had pizza for breakfast in the morn! Every one got to partake of the excellent



craft beers available.

On Friday some folks went to the Plumas Eureka State Park to see Les Cobb's friend who was doing a black smith demonstration. He was making meat flippers (for barbecue chefs) that were to be sold in the gift shop. Plumas Eureka State Park is a jewel of the State Park System and

offers some really neat places to camp along the Jamieson river (that actually still has water flowing). The sites are heavily shaded and well separated by large granite outcroppings. The Park features a museum and trails to the Jamieson Mine.

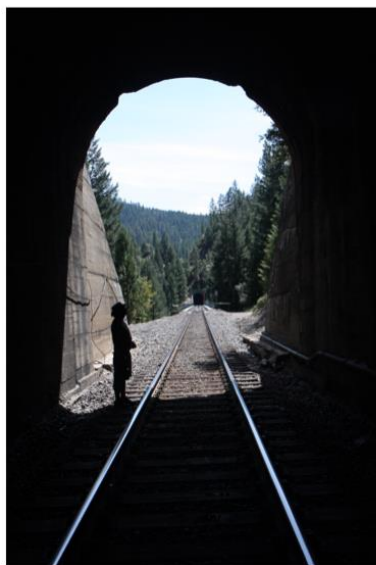
Some folks also went to the farmers market in Beckworth to see all of the great produce and baked goods including huge cookies that we heard were yummy.

On Saturday, there was the weekend Greaeagle Arts and Crafts Fair. The Fair, a Clio tradition attracts a wide variety of artisans who work with a wide variety of materials to offer unique art objects. We saw works of clay, steel, sterling silver, fabrics, tie-dye, leather as well as knick-knacks, clothing, photography and scented soaps. Many of us attended and browsed the many vendors set up on the grass in the park. There was live music playing, food to be had, and a lot of art and crafts to be admired and bought! Clio is an old mill town that has changed with the times and now caters to retirees and tourists. They do it well.

Bulletin: Sams Radio Hams Descend on Rivers Edge RV Park, Clio CA

The Smith's and the Eddy's took off to see the Keddie Wye trestle and within a couple of minutes of arriving, what comes chugging along the tracks but a train. We could not have timed it better to watch the engines enter tunnel #32 on Spanish Creek.

The next picture is Steve, standing in tunnel #31 looking east toward Tunnel #32. Note the grooves cut in the ceiling to accommodate modern modern double-stacked containers trains.



The Keddie Wye (officially titled the Spanish Creek Trestle) is currently owned by the Union Pacific Railroad and spans the Spanish Creek Canyon 6 miles north of Quincy along route 89. The mainline portion was built in 1909 by the Western Pacific Railroad and the Wye portion was added in 1931. The main Warren deck truss structure is 512 feet long.



Arthur W. Keddie, a young Scottish engineer, was hired to survey a wagon road up the Feather River Canyon. While surveying the route he realized he would be able to lay-out a rail route that maintained grade of 1% or less from Sacramento to

Beckworth Pass east of Portola. after several false starts, he set up the Western Pacific Railroad on 1903 with financier George J. Gould. The rail line was built and the "Last Spike" on the last transcontinental railroad was driven on the Spanish Creek Trestle in 1909.

On Sunday a group of us went to the Neighbors Bar-B-Que in Cromberg for dinner. Wow, what a great dinner we had. Everyone left stuffed even with all the leftovers packed to take home.

The campout ended on Monday morning. We had one last morning coffee gathering with wonderful crescents and scones from the local bakery that Mike and Lynne had picked up.

Thank you to all of those that participated in the campout. We will try to make this an annual event in the future! So, ..., get your 2016 calendars and reserve the second week in August to go to Clio!

Write-up with photos by Mike Smith

Golden Shore RV Park Campout Long Beach, May 4, 5, 6, 2015 by Mary Holzgang

The campout started out like many others, 8 rigs, 16 people, 1 dog and 1 cat but that quickly changed so get out your score cards and read all about it.

Sunday was an early day and the MacBrides, Schmitts and Prestons arrived amid blue skies and a light breeze.

Monday the rest of the group arrived (Smiths, Duncan, Schnelbachs, Gleastons) but scratch the Eriksons rig (minus 1 rig) which was still in the repair shop. They came via the Hyatt Hotel. We all enjoyed a Pollo Loco dinner and were glad to have Madolyn Lacy drive in from Seal Beach to join us. Charlotte Schmitt left after dinner to take care of remodeling issues at home (7 rigs, 15 people)

Tuesday's meeting was held in the club house as the weather was overcast and cool. The Bruno's, the Kepner's, the Malanoskys, and Madolyn Lacy were drive-ins. A new couple, Alga and Mel Forrest came to the meeting to see what we were all about and possibly joining. We had our meeting in the club house with all attending except for Don Duncan and Mazie who had to leave for a doctor appointment (scratch one rig, 1 person and 1 dog) followed by a picnic lunch out on the grass. The afternoon brought the sunshine and we indulged in walks, bike riding, geo caching, riding the free Passport bus, and a ladies craft. Happy Hour was on the grass with dinner on our own.

Wednesday found us enjoying a delicious pot luck breakfast followed by a day visiting the Long Beach attractions. A few went to the Queen Mary, some to the Aquarium and some into the downtown area. The Eriksons headed back home (scratch 2 people) and Charlotte Schmitt returned (add 1 person). Happy Hour was again out on the grass with the clouds telling us there could be rain. Tom and Becky, friends of the MacBrides, joined the Happy Hour. The Gleastons left early due to the possible rain and a leaky roof (scratch 1 rig and 2 people) it was a smart decision because we did get rain Wed. night.

Thurs. had us all packed up and ready to head home. (5 rigs and 11people) It was a fun filled relaxed 3 days and everyone had a great time.

Mary Holzgang

ACTON Campout March 16-19, 2015 ACTON CAMPOUT REPORT by N6ISY

In spite of the LA traffic hazards and maneuvering through numerous freeway exchanges the Bruno's and Roger Kepner made the trip from home to the Acton KOA in less than 2 hours. On arrival we found that one of the sites assigned to us was occupied. When we inquired about the status we were told that the occupant was a couple from Pennsylvania and the husband had a stroke and was in UCLA hospital. Camp management then added an additional site to our reservation. Later in the day early arrivers were our hosts Dan and Beverly K6PQA, Dick Miller KJ6W. Max and Doris Smith KG6KDF drifted in from baseball spring training camp in Goodyear Arizona later in the day. Day campers Dan and Adrian joined us from Lancaster for the day.

On Monday arrival day the remaining campers arrived at various times during the day and everyone just relaxed and prepared for Happy Hour which again was held outdoors. In addition to the usual tall tales and shared memories, the philosophical question posed to the campers was, "why is happy only an hour?" to which there was a lot of opinions but no logical explanation. The conversation drifted to younger years which revealed that Dick Miller KJ6W had spent his teen years in the same area of Los Angeles that Dan K6PQA and Marcia N6ISW had lived and he attended John Marshall High School which was a rival to Franklin and Eagle Rock High Schools where Dan and Marcia had attended. In later years Dick had lived in the same area of Orange County where Roger and Carole lived. More tall tales were exchanged and adult beverages were enjoyed until the evening breeze got cool enough to drive everyone indoors.

Tuesday morning brought comfortable cool breezes and bright sunshine. Topic for the Barnyard net was; if you could be a member of an exploring expedition; which would you choose? The choices were Lewis and Clark, Apollo Moon missions or Christopher Columbus. Overwhelmingly Lewis and Clark were chosen except for 2 brave souls who would like to go to the moon with the Astronauts. Pancake and sausage breakfast was served by the hosts followed by the chapter meeting.

After the Chapter meeting the campers enjoyed free time sitting around, reading, visiting with each other or walking around the park. Roger and Roxy discovered; while exploring the northern extreme of the park that the Pacific Crest Trail went right through that end of the RV Park. They also found a structure and a developed area that appeared to be a rest stop along the trail. Some campers explored the area around Acton looking for restaurants and markets (why is it always about food?)

At happy hour in the clubhouse the campers enjoyed green beer, peanuts & pretzels provided by the hosts. Everyone wore green in observance of St. Pat's special day including a lady with green hair who claimed to be Irish but we had our doubts. Tall tales were shared along with recollections of when Irish eyes smiled and Irish mouths blinked. Dinner was a gastronomical delicatessen of corned beef, potatoes and cabbage and green beer followed by Killian Red ale and some Irish brown beers, ales and Miller Genuine Draft. Following dinner we were served ice cream with cookies topped with green sugar sprinkles. By 8PM, after everyone pitched in cleaning up the clubhouse we were ready to head back to the rigs to rest up and reminisce about the day's activities.

On Wednesday morning 20 campers drove to the Lance Camper factory in Lancaster where we were treated to an excellent tour and detailed explanation of their manufacturing processes. Some of us were surprised that Lance also manufactures travel trailers and toy haulers. We followed the trailer assembly line from the assembly of the chassis to the delivery point. Lance also owns the trucking company that delivers the product to the dealers. We were impressed with the quality of materials and workmanship that goes into their manufacturing process and some remarked that; if they were in the market for a travel trailer, they would certainly consider Lance as a choice. Pictures of the tour are posted on the web.

Happy hour in the clubhouse included more Irish beers and lots of good conversation mixed with tall tales. Carole K6PUP arrived just in time for Happy hour after driving all the way from Temecula with one hand because of her broken wing. Marcia and Dick's daughter Kelly came up from the San Fernando Valley and shared a game with the ladies; much to the consternation of the men who were relegated to the clubhouse. The men were left wondering what they were missing that was so funny. It was rumored that some men were worried that it was a sales presentation so they hid their wallets and claimed that they forgot to bring it. Just about dusk a big thunderstorm was brewing north of us and we saw several beautiful lightning displays and heard the roaring thunder. The men who claimed that they forgot their wallets were quick to take shelter for fear of a lightning strike. While we braced for a rainstorm it didn't amount to much and by morning there was just a little dampness on the ground.

Thursday morning Barnyard net subject was "What is your most memorable RV experience and early rig". Lots of great experiences were shared ranging from tent camping to Luxury RV's camping. The rest of the day; when the campers weren't at the Verizon "can you hear me now" hotspot next to the trash can trying to make cell phone calls, they were resting or exploring the area.

Several campers traveled to Sylmar on Thursday morning to visit the Nethercutt Collection of Classic Cars and musical instruments. This was the same venue that we visited at the campout in 2014 at Acton. Everyone enjoyed that visit and they were home in time for Happy Hour. At one point in that day everyone with a cell phone decided to make a call and rushed over to the "Can you hear me now" spot and Jim got a good picture (check it out on the web). At Happy Hour more Irish Beer was consumed along with MGD, Bud Light and some good wine. Immediately following Happy Hour the campers enjoyed a great pot luck dinner provided by everyone. What a spread we had; even some veggie items for the non-carnivores.

On Friday the campers left one by one to their respective shacks with many memories of a great campout and all were looking forward to a good night's sleep uninterrupted by train horns, bells, whistles and the clickity-clack of the wheels.

N6ISY

Footnote: The Acton KOA is under new ownership and there are plans to make some much needed improvements, maintenance and maybe even some cabins.