

## **Camping Corner 2016**

### **Lake Elsinore, CA December 2016 by Dick Miller, KJ6W**

The December campout in Lake Elsinore was enjoyed by everyone in attendance. Attending were about 25 members, and 10 rigs. The park accommodated us nicely in their group area, and provided an excellent club room. Sadly, the lake was very low, and mostly unreachable from the campground. Tuesday morning Darla Figueroa taught all the ladies how to make Christmas ornaments. On Wednesday we all enjoyed an excellent catered banquet, featuring turkey and all the trimmings, prepared by a caterer in Hemet. Following the banquet, the 2017 officers were sworn in by our outgoing president, Roger Kepner. Earlier that same day the new officers went to the Lake Elsinore branch of the Bank of America to sign a new signature card for the chapter checking account.

Both Dan Rowan and Dick Miller celebrated December 6 birthdays and were honored with a beautiful birthday cake.

Thursday evening everyone participated in a Dogs for the Deaf charity raffle. The members provided lots of goodies that netted \$2465 in ticket sales for the raffle. Altogether, including other contributions during the year, the total contribution for the chapter in 2016 was over \$2500. The contribution is lower than previous years, due, at least in part, to the diminishing membership.

At recent meetings we have discussed the need for recruitment of new members. Each one of us should make a commitment to recruit at least one new member family. The old tri-fold brochures can still be used, and new brochures should be available before Quartzsite. To continue our 30+ year tradition of long-time friendships and service, new members and renewed enthusiasm is the only way to accomplish this as our current members age. Dick Bruno is currently in charge of recruitment, but he can't do this alone, so I'm designating all members as recruiters.

### **Joshua Tree California, October 31 - November 3, by Linda WA6HGA**

The Sam's Radio Hams November campout was held at the Sportsman's Club of Joshua Tree, 6225 Sunburst Avenue, Joshua Tree, CA October 31<sup>st</sup> through November 3<sup>rd</sup>. It was a good turnout of 14 rigs and 5 hoteliers. 5 early bird rigs arrived on Sunday Oct. 30<sup>th</sup> to get set up and visit with each other.

Monday Oct. 31<sup>st</sup>, we celebrated Halloween Happy Hour outside the Sportsman's Club. Several of the treats had Halloween themes. No tricks, only treats.

Tuesday Nov. 1<sup>st</sup> we were up early for a 7am caravan to 29 Palms Marine Base. We boarded the bus, had a security clearance, safety briefing and were ready to start the tour. At each of the 3 stops we were met by subject matter experts. The IED lab presenter encouraged us to be aware of our surroundings and demonstrated how an innocent everyday item could be a deadly explosive trigger. The simulator stop gave us the chance to experience a vehicle roll-over and a virtual convoy drive through the desert. The final stop showed us a training village. This simulates desert living conditions for troops before they deploy.

We returned to the campground for a 4pm Happy Hour inside the Club. November birthdays and anniversaries were celebrated with a chocolate cake.



Wednesday Nov. 2nd started with 8am coffee and donuts. The chapter meeting followed at 9am. We welcomed new members Don (KF6OPE) and Linda from Lake Havasu. After the meeting members were free to explore the Joshua Tree area or kick back and enjoy the weather. A lite Happy Hour was provided by the hosts. At 5:30 the Sportsman's Club prepared a salad, lasagna and garlic bread dinner. The World Series played in the background.

Thursday Nov. 3rd the winds were calmer as we left the campground for the drive home.

Special thanks to our hosts Frank and Jan Clements and co-hosts Ed & Glenda Schnelbach for their hospitality.

### **Whitney Classic Bike Ride & Boulder Creek Campout (September 23 - 28) by Dan Rowlan**

High winds on Thursday the 22nd contributed to the problems some of us had in getting to the Lone Pine area for the bike ride and campout. After the winds finally died down on Thursday evening we enjoyed very nice weather. It was quite a bit warmer than normal Saturday night, which was much appreciated by folks who were watching the later SAG stops. We ended up short several radio teams but the ride was properly covered because of some logistic magic by our ride planning team headed up by Roger W6SQQ and Ed K6EAS -- thanks guys.

There was a Whitney rider who was injured this year in an accident with a parked car. The latest information on this is the rider is back home, in good shape and expected to make a full recovery. Other than the accident, the ride and communications were a complete success. Thanks to everyone who worked this event!!

Sunday after the ride we enjoyed a pizza feast with salads and soft drinks at the Lone Pine City Park. (Thank you, Summit Adventures!) This year the Huddy Award was awarded to Dan Rowlan. The Boulder Creek Campout started Sunday afternoon with a well-earned Happy Hour. Monday we had a fun Barnyard net followed by a Whitney Classic debriefing. The rest of Monday was free time and the Campers scattered to take naps, read, and explore Bishop Creek, Whitney Portal, Horse Shoe Meadows and other attractions in the Lone Pine Area. Tuesday morning we had another Barnyard net followed by a Chapter Meeting. The rest of Tuesday was free time followed by a delicious enchilada dinner in the club

house (prepared by Boulder Creek Staff -- thanks). Wednesday morning many of us left. Those who stayed had a restful day to relax and/or explore.

Thanks for coming.

## Clio CA Campout - August 16-18 - Clio's Rivers Edge RV Resort

Official Camp-Out days were August 16-18, but almost everybody arrived in time for the "early day" Happy Hour on Monday August 15. Roger and Carole Kepner are spending three months in Clio and get the prize for the earliest and longest visitor. Frank & Jan Clements arrived on July 24 and will be staying for much of August. Ed & Glenda Schnelbach and Bill Williford and Marilyn Hooton arrived on Sunday the 14th to be sure they weren't late!

Most everyone else elected to arrive on Monday to have more time to enjoy the activities offered by Plumas County. Many of the folks coming from southern California wanted to spend a full week after driving two days to arrive at Clio and the old mill town Graeagle.

Hosts Steve & Lindsay Eddy were the first to arrive with their pilot friends from Minden, NV - Tom & Barbara Glaze and Jim Herd and Jennifer Ware. Les Cobb and his son Matthew arrived just ahead of Mike & Lynne Smith.

Les brought two rigs of friends from the Golden Acorns trailer club from the Sacramento area. Laura Petersen and Nancy Whalen came in Laura's fifth wheel and Dick and Denise Doport brought their fifth wheel!

Gene & Sue Crabb of Phoenix almost certainly get the prize for who traveled the farthest!

Other than enjoying Happy Hour, the main Monday activity seemed to be trying to find a hole in the tree cover big enough to admit a reliable satellite signal. Good thing all these hams had something to occupy their time! Keeps them from more expensive pursuits or breaking things!

Newlyweds Dick and Lynne Miller were the last to arrive and join the group. They were showing off their new pull trailer and Lynne is really happy with the kitchen lay out.

Tuesday we pretty much did our own things, attended Happy Hour and drank many bottles of champagne celebrating the new couple.

After doing our own things for dinner, we reassembled to scarf up six liters of root beer and a gallon plus of ice cream; a concoction frequently referred to as a Root Beer Float.

On Wednesday six vehicles took a tour of local railroad oddities and historical artifacts. Midway between Graeagle and Quincy we stopped at the "Williams Loop" near the Spring Garden sidings.

The "Williams Loop" is a near perfect circle of tracks that enable trains headed east to instantly gain 40-50 feet of height while maintaining a standard grade that trains of every description can handle.

As we were walking around, we found a tunnel under the "Loop" that was a double or triple decker tunnel built in 1914. The lowest level flowed a couple of local creeks. The concrete deck over the river carried the old highway and then on top of the construct sits the road bed of the "Williams Loop".



The picture on the right shows Laura Petersen, Jan Clements, Jennifer Ware and Lynne Smith on the old highway level of the tri-level construct. Greenhorn Creek and Estray Creek flow under their feet!

We walked out to the railroad overpass where long trains coming up the Feather River Canyon route pass under themselves as they continue up the grade east toward Portola.

Leaving the Williams Loop we headed down



the canyon toward Quincy then over the ridge into the Spanish Creek drainage. A few miles down the Spanish Creek Canyon we approached the Keddie Wye.



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.

Steve Eddy is the person on the right-of-way looking up at the camera!

Arthur W. Keddie, a young Scottish engineer, was hired to survey a wagon road up the Feather River Canyon. While surveying the



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 a grade of 1% or less from Sacramento to Beckworth Pass east of Portola.

After several false starts, he set up the Western Pacific Railroad in 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.

Wednesday evening brought another Happy Hour followed by a classical guitar concert at the "Old Mill" in Graeagle.

Thursday morning bought a bounteous breakfast of waffles, french toast and sausage provided by the hosts. Chef Steve kept the food coming until we could hold no more! Folks spent the day collecting pine cones, attending line dancing class, "improving" their satellite reception, touring the local area and generally goofing off. This is a camp-out, right!

Thursday Happy Hour was spent drinking at the source. We went to the "Brewer's Lair" to get the brew where it is fffresh! Happy hour: Salted peanuts in the shell, Chex Mix, salad and Pizza for everyone!

Pizza gnoshers unite!! Now there is a campaign slogan I could get behind!

On Friday morning five vehicles took a tour of the old freight wagon road that was built by teamsters in the 1800s to haul supplies from LaPorte to the Jamieson Mine (now part of Plumas Eureka State Park). The



Johnsville McCrea Road was an interesting drive with tremendous views of deep valleys and forested hills. The Plumas Eureka State Park is a lovely place with great campsites for smaller RVs nestled among the rocks and trees along Jamieson Creek.

Saturday saw most of our crew walking through the Graeagle Arts & Craft Fair. This event is always worthwhile as they encourage the more skilled artisans to participate. The vendors display their wares on the lawn of the Graeagle Square with most of the area shaded by the mature trees in the square.

The campground was very clean and is a great place to spend a week or three! I'm sure we all had a good time and there was much talk of what we were going to do at this camp-out next year and who the sponsors will be.

## Dana Point Summer Picnic - July 28<sup>th</sup> by Ron W6KPM and Joan KF6SMF

### Sam's HAMS Summer Picnic July 26<sup>th</sup>



What wonderful day for a picnic at the beach at Lantern Bay Park

perched high on a bluff overlooking Dana Point Harbor with the ocean stretching all the way to Asia! Some 22 SRH members, some with family, enjoyed the cool ocean breezes thus escaping the harsh July heat further inland. Newlyweds Lynne Miller and VP Dick Miller were there having traveled all the way from Big Bear. There were not enough other officers present to hold a formal meeting so the gang gathered around and exchanged announcements mixed with lots of friendly conversation. VP Dick spoke of a campground in Tehachapi that he recommended for a 2017 campout.



Jim & Ellie Ware were there with daughters Marguerite (who was visiting from Pleasanton, CA) and Jennifer from Minden, NV.

Locals Ron & Joan Malanosky were there and Ron brought an assortment of ham gear (various rolls of RG-8U and RG-58U coax, many rolls of multi-wire and single-wire copper cable, transmitter coils and a variable capacitor and a 2 meter ground plane antenna, etc.) to give away. Both enjoyed immensely seeing and renewing their friendship with SRH members who they have not seen in a while. Other locals present were Karl & Sally Lassey, who everyone enjoyed seeing.

Glenn & Charlotte Schmitt were there escaping the high Glendora heat. Char took home several of Ron's treasures to give to her brother who is installing a ham radio in his catamaran sailboat.



Linda & Jim Preston from San Diego and Max & Doris Smith from Long Beach added to the conversation and enjoyment of all. Bill & Alma DeSmith drove in from Anaheim and Bill made it a point to thank Lynne Miller for taking over the HOG & Lindsay Eddy for taking over the website. He lauded both for doing such a good job.

Don Duncan & his adorable (and adoring) companion doggie "Mazzie" added to the gathering. Don will be making one last RV trip to Utah next month and then plans to put the RV up for sale.

And most important of all, the attendees profusely thanked Amy & Phil MacBride along with Mary Holzgang for setting up & bringing off this most enjoyable event! Eating a wonderful lunch with cooling breezes under shady trees with the magnificent view before us while talking with wonderful long-time friends will be long remembered by all!

Ron W6KPM & Joan KF6SMF



## Samboree - Hemet April 14-16 by Amy MacBride and Mary Holzgang

The Samboree in Hemet was a whirl of fun and constant activity. Your hosts, **Amy, Phil and Mary** arrived on Wednesday, registered and started planning the week. There were many activities and events to choose from and also opportunities to volunteer to help with. Wednesday was Chili night, hosted by the State Committee and we indulged with the works, cheese, onion and crackers, sharing our table with some folks from Sequoia Sams.

Thursday brought the rest of our small group. **Carole and Roger Kepner** (they came on Wed.), **Doris and Max Smith** plus **Doris's** sister **Earla** from Florida and **Jan and Frank Clements. Char and Glen Schmitt** drove down on Thursday to spend the day. We all went to lunch at Farmer Brothers. **Jan and Carole** ordered the biggest fried zucchini sticks we had ever seen. Delicious!! Some attended a seminar on RV tours by Fantasy. This one was on —Autumn in New England. Later in the evening, at the Opening Ceremonies, we were awarded a flag for being "Top Dog" in giving to Dogs for the Deaf. We were top in CALIFORNIA and 2nd in the nation. Congratulations to Chairman **Roger** and all Sam's Radio Hams.

Friday's weather turned into a cold windy day causing a stampede to get awnings rolled up. It was, how-ever, nothing like the wind in Lancaster where the gusts were 50 to 60 miles per hour. So glad to be in Hemet!! was heard from everyone. **Phil** took his turn driving the shuttle taking people to and from the club house. We all enjoyed a potluck lunch following a swap meet where **Amy** sold her bike, and had the new owner make the check to Dogs for the Deaf and promptly turned it over to DOF Chairman **Roger**. That night we all went to Los Vaquero's for a Mexican dinner and Margarita's.

Saturday dawned clear and warm and beautiful. **Amy** and **Mary** took their volunteer turn driving the shuttle carts for 2 hours zooming up and down collecting those who did not want to walk and then cooled off in the pool. There was always so much to do: checking out the vendors, playing games, going to the gym, watching the pet show and just relaxing. We had HH at the **MacBride's** rig, heard about the State Committee meeting and the announcement that the Samboree would be in Hemet again next year. We all headed to the ballroom for the dinner and music.

Sunday brought the closing ceremonies when we remember our lost members and saluted our military he-roes both past and present. It was very moving and brought Samboree to an end.

Many thanks to the State Committee for planning a great Samboree. They work so hard to make this a success and they succeeded big time.



**CAMPING CORNER**  
**March 2016 Campout**  
**Banning CA**



The St. Patrick's Day campout was hosted by Dan and Beverly Rowlan, assisted by Dick Miller, Lynne Chambers, and Marcia Bruno, at the Stagecoach KOA RV Park in Banning. As usual, a good time was had by all twenty campers.

On Tuesday the ladies enjoyed a shopping extravaganza to the RV Casuals Showroom in Beaumont followed by lunch at the Banning Sizzler. RV Casuals has a wide selection of casual ladies clothing for all occasions. The men, not being interested in that sort of thing, stayed in camp solving the world's problems, in some cases making minor repairs to the rigs.

Much conversation ensued at the traditional Happy Hours on Monday and Tuesday afternoon.

On Wednesday, Dan and Beverly, along with Dick Miller, Lynne Chambers and Dick Bruno rode the new Palm Springs Tram to the top where they enjoyed spectacular views and a nice lunch at the Peaks Restaurant. The new tram cars have a rotating floor so all passengers enjoy a 360 degree view while in transit. The new cars have a maximum capacity of 80 passengers each, but typically carry about 60 to allow for hauling water to the summit in tanks on the bottom side of the car. All food and water for the summit station is carried via the tram cars, as are the employees that work at the summit.





**Camping Corner (continued)**

Thursday began with a pot luck breakfast that was enjoyed by all. Thursday night we all enjoyed a Saint Patrick's Day dinner. The hosts, led by Dan Rowlan, served corned beef and cabbage, potatoes and carrots, and Irish soda bread, along with Dan's specially formulated green beer in keeping with the theme of the evening. A valuable prize was awarded to Maria Bruno for the best Saint Patrick's theme oriented outfit, complete with green hair. The prize consisted of green M&Ms complete with the Sam Hams name on each M&M.

Friday morning the campers disbanded and the Bruno's headed toward Vegas to support the Baker to Vegas Rally. St. Patrick's Day was over for another year!

Yummy Yummy!!!  
Thanks Dan!



Contest winner Marcia Bruno



## **Quartzsite 2016 Campout (January 18, 19, 20) by Lindsay Eddy KD7ROX**

Quartzsite here we come...Sunday morning the Eddys, Smiths, and Mankins (soon to be new members) arrived at Mile Marker 99. As we were setting up camp the Kirshs and Schleuses arrived to help define our camping circle. The Herd/Wares were next. A little bit later in the afternoon Dick Miller and Lynne Rayner arrived with Sue and Paul Craft (Dick's daughter and son-in-law) in tow. Gary and Debra Meyers (visiting guests) arrived and just behind them were Margie Hoffman and the Sherwoods. The Johnstons and the Clements completed the folks that were arriving on Sunday. The weather was excellent and a beautiful sunset was enjoyed.

Monday brought the rest of the campers. Terry and Eloth Bunres (guest of the Herd/Wares) arrived early, while Don Duncan, the Rowlands and the Schnellbachs caravanned arriving together. The Bruno's along with (Larry and Susan Bruno), the Ferrees, Dusty Oess and Loretta Snelson, and the Gleatons completed our group at MM99. Others camping in town or at other locations were Bob Dahl, the Kepners, and the Eriksens. Altogether there were 21 rigs at MM99. We had a great Happy Hour with another beautiful sunset. The colors were gorgeous. Later in the evening while enjoying the campfire we saw a huge ring around the moon. "Ice crystals", someone said. Could this mean rain?

On Tuesday morning we had great weather for our Chapter Meeting along with morning coffee, Irish cream, scones and biscotti. It was announced that Sue and Paul Craft were now new members of Sam's Radio Hams. After that some folks took advantage of the Quartzfest/hamfest events nearby, others went into town or to the big white tent, and still others went geo caching, exploring the desert on their quads, or just hung out and relaxed at camp. For Happy Hour we enjoyed Wahdingers which were a fun treat for all. A Special Shout Out and Thank You to Don and Barbara Schleuse and Marcia Bruno for showing us novices how it's done and all their hard work. It was Mexican style with all the fixings and they were delicious. Another beautiful sunset and evening camp fire were enjoyed. We even had a short spell of a few rain drops sprinkled in here and there but not enough to ruin the beautiful night.

Wednesday morning had some folks making breakfast Wahdingers made with eggs, sausage, potatoes, cheese and all the fixings. The usual morning coffee, along with Irish cream, biscotti and cranberry bread, were enjoyed. Some members participated in Quartzfest events, some went on the Quartzfest Off Road Trip, while others went into town, shopped at the big white tent, went RV shopping, bike riding, geo caching or just relaxed. The evening Happy Hour was enjoyed with great food, fantastic weather and yet another beautiful sunset. An evening campfire topped off the night.

On Thursday morning a few of the campers left early in the morning to head home, as others left later in the day. Many folks stayed into the weekend enjoying Quartzsite and all the activities it has to offer. Overall, it was a great campout and it was great to see folks coming in from all different directions. Thank you to all that attended!