

Camping Corner 2022

Holiday Party, Orange Grove RV Park, Bakersfield CA December 4-8, 2022

By Margie Hoffman

The Sam's Radio Hams returned to Orange Grove RV Park centrally located in Bakersfield, CA.

This campout was our annual officer-hosted holiday party and included installation of the officers for 2023 and our big Dogs for Better Lives donation and drawing for items brought by all the campers in attendance. Even though we had stayed at this location in March of 2020, this time the oranges in the trees were plentiful and ripe. We were allowed to pick as many as we could eat and take home to share with others. The oranges were sweet tasting and we enjoyed them at several of our morning breakfasts and happy hours.

The attendees were: Pam & Bill Elliott, Margie Hoffman, Dan & Adrienne Sherwood, Andy & Charity Gippetti, Paul & Sue Craft, Ray & Maureen Bush, Bill Penn, Linda & Jim Preston, and Dick & Lynne Miller. We also were visited by Lou and Darla Figueroa who spent much of Tuesday with us.

Early arrivals on Saturday went as a group that evening to the Buck Owens Crystal Palace where we enjoyed a great diner and entertainment. We were fortunate that the house band for the night turned out to be Johnny Owens, who is Buck Owens youngest son and who only comes in once a month to do a show. He performed many of his father's well-known songs.

On Sunday, the other arrivals came in and we all decorated the barn/meeting room and the officers hosted happy hour. During the evening, some of us attended the Christmas Melodrama in town.

On Monday, some members went to the local fruit stands and farms, Pam & Bill went to town to check out the antique shops, and Paul & Sue went hiking around The Park at River Walk. In the evening, Paul shared the 2022 campout video. We had our one and only outside campfire on Monday evening since the weather was off and on rainy and chilly, so we were glad to be inside the building instead. There was a wood burning stove in there that needed fixing, so of course Bill Elliott and Bill Penn got supplies and sealed it up, so we had a nice cozy fireplace to keep us warm. Thank you, Bills!

Tuesday, the officers hosted a hearty breakfast, followed by our chapter meeting and followed by a meeting of the committee who will oversee the re-writing of our by-laws. While the by-law meeting was attended by those who will help sort it out, Darla Figueroa brought in craft supplies and several of us made yarn gnomes. We are very lucky to have Darla share her creative abilities with our group. In the afternoon, Andy presented his tech-talk on "Using the iPhone's Photos App." After happy hour our fundraiser for Dogs for Better Lives was held. The total raised for our chapter donation amounted to \$1,265. At 8pm, members Dan W6DAS and Ray WB6PBZ made contacts on the SRH 80 meter nightly net and were able to reach other members including Frank W6GZI, Larry K6HLH, and Roger W6SQQ. Paul N6EAB was able to listen only as he was running only 20 watts on a short antenna. Hi Hi!

Wednesday, officers hosted a continental breakfast, followed by games in the afternoon. Adrienne finally was able to participate in Rummikub and she enjoyed it so much that she now has it on her Christmas wish list. In the afternoon, Paul, Sue, Andy & Charity did a 3-mile hike at the Panorama Vista Preserve. Andy was able to fly his drone and got some amazing pictures.

After happy hour, we held our catered banquet consisting of ham, salad, brussel sprouts, sweet potatoes, mashed potatoes and rolls. Desert was chocolate mousse cake and cherry or strawberry cheesecake. Lastly, we held our installation of the 2023 officers.

On Thursday, we all said goodbye with hugs and wishes for a great holiday season and a Happy New Year to all our SRH members! Please check SRHAMS.org to view all the photos, the video 2022 SAM's Radio Hams Memories of the Year, and Andy's Tech Talk Notes.

Sequoia RV Ranch in Three Rivers, CA October 2-6 (4 nights)

By Sue and Paul Craft

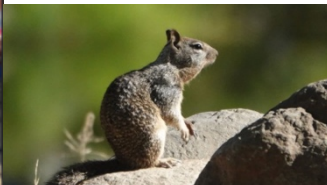
The Sam's Radio Hams returned to Three Rivers, CA for another excellent campout. We are grateful to Bill and Pam Elliott for hosting this campout, and for introducing the SRHams to the Three Rivers area!

The campout location was at Sequoia RV Ranch. This was a new RV park for SRH campers and it was beautiful! Many sites faced the North Fork of the Kaweah River, and were surrounded by huge oak trees full of Acorn Woodpeckers. The weather was perfect!

The SRH attendees were: Hosts Bill & Pam Elliott and guests Ron & Kelley Michel, Margie Hoffman and guest Joanie, Dan & Adrienne Sherwood, Paul & Sue Craft, Ray & Maureen Bush, Andy & Charity Gippetti, Tom & Carol Gleaton, Jim & Linda Preston, Bill Penn, and Chuck & Cindy Taylor.

Bill & Pam welcomed us on Sunday at Happy Hour with a full display of appetizer trays, almost too pretty to eat. Everyone enjoyed being together again and spent the evening around the campfire, just catching up.

On Monday, the group had a slow morning visiting at the Elliott's campsite enjoying SRH-provided muffins and fruit (unfortunately, Paul forgot to bring the SRH totes containing the coffee maker, so everyone had to bring their own coffee – grrr!). The Crafts and the Gippetis headed into Sequoia National Park to climb to the top of Moro Rock and visit Crescent Meadow for lunch.



There were signs cautioning people about bears taking picnic baskets, and true enough Andy did see two small bears! In the evening, the group had happy hour and appetizers (A-L) at the Elliott's campsite.

On Tuesday, the day started with more muffins and BYO coffee. Andy gave the group an excellent “Tech-Talk” on the iPhone camera – complete with PowerPoint presentation hand-outs. People learned a thing or two about the iPhone – evident by the frequency chorus of “I didn’t know that” from the audience. Everybody loved Andy’s “NO QUESTIONS!” presentation style. (Andy’s presentation has been attached to the email that has delivered this HOG to you, and the presentation is also now on the website.) Later, a group of members, including Bill Elliott, Bill Penn, and Andy and Charity Gippetti took a trip down to Exeter to explore some antique shops followed by awesome A&W root beer floats. Back at camp, Pam slaved away in the motor home kitchen preparing all the fixings for a delicious Taco Tuesday for the evening. After our chapter meeting, the tacos came out and Chuck and Cindy Taylor brought the blender out for Margaritas. Most everyone spent the evening around the campfire, telling stories, and jokes as the night wore on.

On Wednesday, Bill Elliott started the day by putting on his chef’s apron, firing up the grill, and making his amazing customized breakfast sandwiches. Later, Andy, Paul, and Bill Elliott went down the hill to Lake Kaweah to fly their drones. Andy was practicing new drone modes and captured some awesome footage. Dan & Adrienne Sherwood, Margie Hoffman, and Joanie took a drive to Exeter to view the murals in town and got a special invite into a “Closed” museum. This day was also “game day”, Sue and Margie got in a couple games of Rummikub and Charity and the Bush’s played Mexican Train. The evening saw another happy hour and more appetizers (M-Z) – so filling that dinner was not needed! Pam Elliott organized another fundraiser for Dogs for Better Lives. The table was loaded with goodies, and approximately \$250 was raised for Dogs for Better Lives.

Thursday it was time to say farewell. Thanks again to Bill and Pam for hosting this campout! And a special thanks to Andy Gippetti for doing the morning announcements on the radio! Also, it was awesome to see Jim and Linda Preston who drove the farthest to get to the campout. We are looking forward to seeing you all at the Holiday Party in December!

Check out the campout photos at srhams.org.



Cotillion Gardens Campground, Felton CA, May 15 – 20

Cotillion Gardens Campout

On May 15th Sam's Radio Hams had their second campout for 2022. It was a 5-night event held at the beautiful Cotillion Gardens RV Park in Felton, CA. The RV Park is located under the redwood trees of Santa Cruz County and is located next to the Henry Cowell Redwoods State Park. The campout was hosted by Jim & Lina Koski and was assisted by Paul & Sue Craft. This was Jim's first attempt at hosting a campout and he did not disappoint.

As we all arrived on Sunday, we each had to maneuver around large redwood trees to get into our individual spots. Once set up the Koski's provided us with appetizers for our first happy hour.



The next day after coffee & muffins, we had a little "Show & Tell" where I showed off some of the new items I purchased for my drone. After that, we descended into the redwood trees for a dress rehearsal hike to the Roaring Camp Railroad.



Finally, the day ended with a welcome dinner supplied by the Koski's of hotdogs & fixings.

On day two we road on a steam train at the Roaring Camp Railroad. This was a fun train ride through the redwoods forest with great information narrations at each turn. To my surprise, I learned something new that everyone else seem to know, that a train whistle blows mores code when it approaches a rail road crossing. After the train ride we all had a picnic lunch at the train yard.



In the evening after a heavy appetizer happy hour, we had our Dogs for Better Lives fundraiser where I once again scored two older radios!

Day three highlight was a trip to the small-scale Billy Jones Wildcat Railroad in Los Gatos. Jim Koski gave us all a great tour of the train yard, its history, all the different engines and a look at a beautiful refurbished carnival carousel.



After the tour we ended up eating lunch at famous Willow Street Pizza where no one ordered pizza .

On our last full day of the campout, the morning started with Bill Elliott's delicious famous breakfast sandwiches. Afterwards, was a free day where many of us drove into Santa Cruz to see the boardwalk, cliffs & museums.



At dinner time Jim Koski suggested that we go to a restaurant call the Tyrolean Inn where we all enjoyed great German cuisine.



At happy hour that night Jim showed us his video of his 5-month RV trip through the US.

All in all, this was one of the best Sam's Radio Hams campouts that I have been on. The Koski's really went the extra mile as campout hosts. I can't wait to see what they do next.



Paul & Sue Craft, Jim & Lind Koski, Bill & Pam Elliott, Bill Penn, Margie Hoffman, Dan & Adrienne Sherwood, Dick & Lynne Miller, Andy & Charity Gippetti, Dusty Oess, Jim & Linda Preston & Peter & Jane Griffith.

Quartzsite AZ, January 24 - 26

By Maureen Bush

Welcome to our Good Sam Hams Campout! This is old fashioned dry camping in the desert where the weather is always a surprise. The sunrises and sunsets are majestic! This is usually our most attended campout as members are able to decide at the last minute to attend. The camp hosts need to know planned arrival and departure and number of people so they can plan accordingly. Our campout hosts included Adrienne & Dan Sherwood & Margie Hoffman who also acted as wagon masters for this outing since we have a vacancy on the board for this position. Our hosts not only handle registrations, do the shopping, prepare a schedule, plus coordinate camp setup/activities. It is a lot of work but can also be very rewarding. Thanks for taking the challenge and a job well done! Did you know there was a shortage of crescent rolls? Shelves were bare and many of us had to visit several stores before locating some packages. Evidently, there are several recipes that RV er's use at this time of the year. Thanks also to Sue and Paul Craft who were close by to provide a helping hand as needed and others that offered up their support.

Ray & Maureen had scoped out our normal location early in the week and were happy that the area was still empty when they arrived on Friday, January 21st. They invited their Big Bear neighbors, Linda & Bob Bulman,

as guests to join our campout. David and Maggie showed up on Friday and they were also the last to leave on 2/1. Dan & Adrienne arrived on Saturday followed by Andy. Luckily Dan had his quad as he was using it to direct our group to the exact location as some had never been to that specific location. Margie pulled in Sunday just in time to be our other camp host. We had 13 rigs and 24 people in attendance. Members included: Ray/Maureen Bush, Paul/Sue Craft, Carl/Beverly Feree, Andy Gippetti, Tom/Carol Gleaton, Peter/Jane Griffith, Margie Hoffman, Jim/Linda Koski, David/Maggie Lopez, Rick/Austa Rogers, Don/Barbara Schleuse and Dan/Adrienne Sherwood.

Early arrivals attended the free music jam down La Paz Road on Saturday from 1 to 3 pm at Murphys Music Barn; great entertainment! Meanwhile, the Sherwoods and Gippetti arrived bringing a lite shower to the area. Just what Dan had requested to cut down on the dust. A last minute campfire was provided Sunday night to welcome the early arrivals. Morning announcements were held to a minimum during the scheduled days. Most campers had arrived in time for Monday happy hour where attendees provided light hors d'oeuvre for sharing and later gathered for a campfire. I counted five gas fire pits that we used for nightly gatherings plus a wood fire.

What did our campers do in Quartzsite during the daylight hours? Setup camp which includes antennas in the air. Andy had lots of help and everybody thought they had the best idea. Peter and Jane were off on their electric bikes for a ride over the not-so-smooth desert terrain and have decided to save their bikes for the hard pavement as designed for their existing tires. Bushes bikes were only removed off the rack so Ray could put up his new bumper receiver mount that extended 8 feet above the trailer where he tied the end fed zep to a tall scrub (I thought that was illegal on BLM land?) Ray was able to reach Big Bear and Yuma friends with his new setup.

Paul, Sue and Andy hiked up "Q" mountain, visited the Tomb of Hi Jolly and located the Quartzsite Rock Alignment & Intaglios. Quartzsite Rock Alignment mostly consists of the word "QUARTZSITE" spelled with rocks across 100 feet of the desert floor designed with an arrow used as a guide for airmen who might have

otherwise been lost in the desert. It's kinda like Andy's lights on his rig that shine so brightly and guide those lost in the dark desert back to their campsite.

At least two mylar balloons drifted off into the sky above Quartzfest. Dan and Jim know more about the process as I believe they both watched the takeoff. I understand they can go up to 30,000 feet with a payload of 58 grams and they are trackable. They have had at least one balloon that has traveled around the world at least three times.

Paul is such a great photographer that he climbed up on Bushes trailer to examine what was required to replace the bathroom air vent to provide more ventilation. Thanks Paul for the photos...now we know that we need to take it to the shop as I'm not allowing Ray to get on the roof, especially since he has occasional bouts with vertigo. Little did I know that Paul does not like heights...sorry but thank you!

We have our own drone group between Crafts, Gippetti and Koski plus Miller that wasn't in attendance. Let's see who is the next to add to this already existing fleet?? The boys had plenty of good air time for flying their drones. Andy went offsite to enhance his drone flying capabilities as can be seen by his video of Quartzsite. It sure is nice to have multiple people in our group that love to take photos and fly so they can be shared with those that are not in attendance. I noticed Linda Koski and Sue Craft sharing info as they discovered they both had identical cameras. I hear they are both looking forward to capturing some great photos, especially birds, during the May campout. Can't forget all the men in the group that are taking pictures and forwarding them to Lindsay to add to the website.

Tuesday was set aside as a **Go To Town Day** and everyone gathered in the afternoon for a chapter meeting followed by Wahdingers. We only had two fire pits so a third rock pit was used to cook the wahdingers. We didn't have our usual stick stand but had plenty of sticks available and Queen Barbara was able and willing to start the crescent rolling process. Peter jumped in and started assisting Barbara while some tried to load their sticks with or without much success. Remember to place one piece over the top of the dowel then the second piece below. Roll n' roll between your hands to ensure there are no visible bubbles, seams or openings in the dough. There were several lessons learned that night. PAM cooking spray is the preferred choice. Spray the dowel only once at the beginning and gently wipe off excess oil as we fed a few crescents to the coals. Used sticks must cool before using again. Kingsburg charcoal provides a nice hot fire; others work but seems to take a lot longer.

A few of our group attempted to join in on the zoom campfire but as the night went on it worked better to just do a phone call. Later in the week Dan and Ray joined in on the Good Sams Ham radio net.

Breakfast was Wednesday morning at 8 a.m. where the club provided scrambled eggs, coffee, juices and the members brought their contributions to share. Remember that as most of us come from California that you add an hour when in Arizona. My suggestion is to move breakfast a little later as it was still dark when getting up to prepare the food. Margie had hot coffee available; Sue and Jane were cracking and scrambling eggs. Ray was using his outside blackstone grill and stovetop to heat up potatoes and bacon while Maureen was inside preparing fresh waffles. Austa had already prepared some homemade muffins and I noticed other tasty breads, cookies and fruits. Everyone checked to see what they had in their rigs to contribute to happy hours and breakfast and no one went away hungry. I did notice someone who had a full plate of goodies one evening that bit the dust....don't worry as more was just a few steps away.

Wednesday was the Quartzfest 4x4 tour which was attended by Griffiths and Jim Koski. They did have to lower their tire pressure as one area was soft sand. Some of the same stopping points on the trip were visited by the Crafts and Andy Gippetti earlier in the week but they turned back as the road became more challenging than

they were ready to go with their tow vehicle. Sue, Margie, Maureen and Austa were able to sneak in two games of Rumikub after breakfast before it was time to head to the museum.

A new find...Ray Bush setup a Wednesday tour to Joanne's Gum Gallery in town. I bet you've never heard of that type of museum! Joanne Brunet inherited the collection from her sister and has continued to expand the collection over the years which includes over 4,000 specimens exhibited in over 100 cases with the oldest item dating back to 1914. There is a wall of gum related products and articles from around the world, i.e., Italy, Germany, Turkey, China, Rome, Bangkok plus others. Dan has an item at home that he couldn't find in the gallery and is considering donating it. Do you remember when you would take a gum wrapper and fold it to make a chain? Well, one person donated hers and the story was "A girl would put the wrapper around her boyfriend's neck and they would set it on fire and the girl had to keep kissing the boy until the fire burned out." That's TOO HOT for me!

I did notice a few changes since we visited in 2020. La Mesa RV on the corner of Main/95 was empty; no rv's in site. The consignment rv sales down the road was a bare lot where we had previously sold and bought our rig. The diner in the metal building on East Main Street was totally removed, cement slab remained, and we noticed that Karen's Cafe was down the street near Pilot Gas Station open for breakfast and lunch from 6 am to 1 pm. A barber shop was at Main/95 housed in the back of an open toy hauler. Unleaded gas had risen to \$3.49 - \$3.69 a gallon; diesel was \$3.89 - \$4.31 Don't worry as Dorothy & Toto's Ice Cream/Kettle Corn was still there to satisfy our sweet tooth. The big tent was the same and we arrived at 9:15 a.m. parked by the tent and were in and out within an hour or so. We wore our masks as some chose not to but you could walk freely without bumping into people. The dip booth was there selling their products as normal. Overall number of dry campers appeared to be lower and some full hookup rv parks had vacancies. Food prices were higher as I especially noticed a gallon of milk for \$4.40. at the Dollar Store and some shelves for particular items were empty. Cost to dump sewer on Hwy 95 in town was \$10. and water was \$6. and I understand you use their hoses.

584 individuals signed into Quartzfest; lower than they anticipated. Dan & Adrienne supported the event by doing testing plus attending talks on metal detecting plus others subjects. Unfortunately, on Friday, one woman awoke only to find that her husband had passed during the night; at least he was enjoying what he loved. We joined FMCA (Family Motor Coach Association) at the big white tent as this group also provides means to help you should you ever experience similar circumstances, especially while traveling with your rigs. In fact, if you have any questions feel free to contact Don Schleuse, member of our group, who is the National Vice President Northwest Area. But don't wait too long as his term will be expiring in the near future. I know two in our group that have signed up this year. My theory is "If you have safety measures in place maybe you won't have to use it for not-so-good incidents."

Most of our group pulled out Thursday. Those that remained had an opportunity to attend some of the Quartzfest planned seminars/activities. A special treat was when Rod & Marianne Bunn stopped to visit the Bushes and Rod brought his two guitars. Rod invited the gal that wrote the HAM song a few years ago to join us with her husband who played the harmonica. After a short visit everyone pulled out their musical instruments: Margie brought her guitar, Adrienne added her recorder (flute), David setup his electronic drums aided by Rays' generator and Rods' Bose amplifier, also added was a tambourine and indian drum. We had our own jam session in the middle of the desert. I learned something new....David used to play drums in a rock band! Next time we hope to have some copies of the songs so we can all contribute with our voices and just maybe this can be added into our campout planned schedule.

Great time by all and I believe we had the best weather since we've been attending. HAPPY CAMPING!