

Camping Corner 2023

SRH December 2023 Campout at Hemet, CA (Dec 4th-7th) by Pamela Elliott



Golden Village Palms RV & Cottages Resort was a wonderful choice to enjoy the holidays with the following Sam's Radio Hams club members present: Kathryn & David Bassett; Maureen & Ray Bush; Sue & Paul Craft; Pamela & Bill Elliott; Charity & Andy Gippetti; Margie Hoffman; Mary Holzgang; Roger Kepner; Phil MacBride; Lynne & Dick Miller; Bill Penn; Linda & Jim Preston; Adrienne & Dan Sherwood; Becki & Paul Stewart and Cindy & Chuck Taylor. Our club was provided with an activity room for our indoor activities. On Monday, December 4th the resort hosted a Wine Tasting to accompany our light appetizer Happy Hour. The Craft's showed their fabulous video capturing the SRH 2023 campouts. Andy Gippetti began the following days with SRH Announcements (147.51 MHz) and sharing many holiday related jokes. Monday-Thursday evenings there was a propane campfire at the Elliott's site. On Tuesday, December 5th there was a continental breakfast followed by the SRH Board Meeting and SRH General Meeting (these meetings were available via ZOOM). Later that afternoon, Andy Gippetti presented a Tech Talk about iPhone Tech-Tip on Portrait Photography followed by Happy Hour appetizers. On Wednesday, December 6th there was a hearty breakfast with an open afternoon to play games or venture out to explore the Inland Empire. That evening Happy Hour was heavy appetizers followed by a donation drawing to support Dogs For Better Lives. Many items for the donation drawing were handmade and our club was successful in collecting checks to send to Dogs For Better Lives. On Thursday, December 7th there was a continental breakfast with the rest of the day set for games or free time. Paul Craft took pictures of all members in front of the Christmas decorations in the lobby of the resort and members gathered during our time in the activity room. At 5:00 pm our Annual Catered Banquet Dinner was available and immediately followed by special member, Linda Preston installing our 2024 Sam's Radio Hams Board Members. Congratulations to 2024 Sam's Radio Hams Board Members: Sue Craft, (new) President; Maureen Bush, (new) Vice-President; Bill Elliott, Treasurer; Dan Sherwood, Secretary; and Margie Hoffman, WagonMaster. Dessert was served and hugs were shared by all for a safe travel home on Friday.

THANKS to Ray Bush, 2023 Past President, his wife, Maureen Bush; Dick Miller, 2023 Past Vice-President; Margie Hoffman, WagonMaster; Bill Elliott, Treasurer and every board member and every club member who made this holiday gathering a success and, most importantly, keeping our club thriving all these years.

Merry Christmas and Happy New Year **Pamela Elliott KN6PME**

Bishop/Brown's Town Campout June 4-9, 2023

by Paul & Sue Craft



The Sam's Radio Hams had another excellent campout, this time at Brown's Town campground in Bishop, CA. We were next to the golf course (which was very green due to all the rain this year), and had incredible views of the snow-covered mountains of the Eastern Sierra! This campout was hosted by Margie Hoffman and co-hosted by Paul and Sue Craft.

The weather was mixed. While we did have some nice warm weather, we also experienced cold temps, heavy winds, rain, lightning, thunder, and even a hailstorm. The Sherwoods described the weather as "Quartzsite-like" and the Prestons described the weather as "all 4-seasons being represented".

We had 9 rigs, depending on how you count. Attendees were: **Margie Hoffman, Paul & Sue Craft, Andy & Charity Gippetti, Ray & Maureen Bush, Dan & Adrienne Sherwood, Dusty Oess** (with her fancy tent attached to her car), **Bill Penn, Jim and Linda Preston** (they "glamped" at a nearby motel), and Bill Miner (our new member as of this campout!)

The highlights of the campout were:

- Morning wakeup call and announcements by Andy Gippetti
- Morning coffee, muffins, and fruit provided by the hosts
- Daily appetizers
- Fireside chats every night
- Drone flying (Andy, and maybe Dan? Paul brought his but was too busy this time)
- Tech-Talk by Andy Gippetti. Topic: "The Great Apple Bank"
- Parks On The Air (Paul and Ray were "activators", everyone else were "hunters")
- Rock Painting (the women)
- Grandview Campground in the White Mountains (Dan and Adrienne)
- Touring to Sabrina, Convict, Rock Creek, June, and Mono Lakes (various groups different times)
- Auto touring of other local area campgrounds (Paul, Sue, and Andy)

- Shopping at Schat's Bakery (multiple trips, bread to eat back at camp, and bread to take home!)
- Happy birthday song to Pam via Zoom (Pam and Bill were camping in Kanab, Utah at the time)
- Hiking to the mysterious Crowley Lake “columns formations” (Paul, Sue, Andy, Charity)
- Rummikub most every day (Margie, Sue, Charity, Dusty, Maureen, Adrienne, Linda)
- Participating on K6SRH 75m evening net (the guys, Ray’s rig set up outside on a folding table)
- Visits by very friendly local hams (Bill KK6HTM and Jon NW6C)
- Hot dog dinner by the Craft’s
- Also, happy birthday song to Maureen. Candles and cake!
- Riding eBikes on Bishop’s back roads (Paul fried controller module, Sue and Andy had no probs)
- Dinner at the Copper Top BBQ in nearby Big Pine
- Laws Railroad Museum. 10 campers visited for over 2 hours and saw lots of good historical stuff
- Potluck breakfast
- Club meeting

A great big THANK YOU to **Margie Hoffman** and her co-hosts **Paul & Sue Craft** for hosting another awesome SRH campout!



[Fountain of Youth Campout \(March 6-11, 2023\)](#)

Hosted by Margie Hoffman & Co-hosts Andy & Charity Gippetti By Paul & Sue Craft

The Sam’s Radio Hams visited a new location, in Niland CA, right near the Salton Sea. The Fountain of Youth (FOY) RV Park and Spa was a fun place! It was nestled up next to the gorgeous Chocolate Mountains, on acres of stunning desert landscape, and surrounded by miles of hiking and biking trails. There were endless activities, amenities, and healing mineral water pools. There were 3 hot spas, 1 raw mineral spa, 3 soaking tubs, 1 salt water pool, 1 chlorinated pool, and steam rooms. There were clubs and classes such as card games, yoga, arts & crafts, water aerobics, golf, line dancing, and more. Outdoor activities included tennis, pickle ball, frisbee golf, horseshoes, corn hole, and more. Other on site conveniences included a cafe, convenience store, RV/car wash, dump station, mail

room, free Wi-Fi in some areas, free cable TV.... all of that without leaving the RV park and for only \$39 a night! The weather was beautiful! Daytime highs were in the 70's. It was a nice escape for those who have been experiencing multiple atmospheric rivers in the form of rain and snow throughout most of California.

We had 10 rigs all parked near each other. Attendees were: Margie Hoffman, Andy & Charity Gippetti, Ray & Maureen Bush, Dan & Adrienne Sherwood, Paul & Sue Craft, Bill & Pam Elliott, Bill Penn, Rick & Austa Rogers, Tom and Carol Gleaton, and David & Kathryn Bassett (new members).

Highlights of the campout were:

- Morning Wake Up Call & Announcements by Andy Gippetti
- Morning coffee, muffins, and yogurt provided by our hosts
- Tech-Talk by Andy Gippetti – The iPhones Amazing “NOTES APP”
- Fireside chats every night
- Daily Appetizers, Potluck Breakfast, Chili Dinner, Hot Dog Dinner
- Happy 20th Anniversary celebration for Andy & Charity, complete with a champagne toast, and a fireside Q&A session
- Taco Tuesday & Blue Margaritas at the American Legion at Bombay Beach
- Lunch at the Ski Inn at Bombay Beach
- Evening guitar concert around the fire pit at the FOY
- Daily soaks in the mineral spas – The waterfall spa and Gossip pool were popular
- Rummikub most every day – Margie, Pam, Charity, Adrienne, Austa, Sue
- Visits to Salvation Mountain, Slab City, and East Jesus – most everyone
- Hike to Bat Caves Buttes – Paul & Sue, Andy & Charity, Bill Elliott
- Visit to Harry the 50-year-old, 60-pound African Spur Tortoise (he travels in the RV shower)
- FOY Swap Meet, Farmers Market, and the café for ice cream – most everyone
- Visit to the Sony Bono Wildlife Refuge – Ray & Maureen, Bill Penn, Bill & Pam

A great big THANK YOU to Margie Hoffman and her co-hosts Andy & Charity Gippetti for hosting another awesome SRH campout!

[Quartzsite Campout, Quartzsite AZ January 23 - 25, 2023](#)

[Hosted by Ray & Maureen Bush & Co-Hosts Chuck & Cindy Taylor](#)

By Paul and Sue Craft

The Sam's Radio Hams once again gathered at their favorite spot in the Quartzsite desert, and had a fun and well-attended campout! The official SRH campout was for three nights, but many arrived early and stayed later. Why not??? The benefit to the timing of our campout was that it was co-located to the awesome Quartzfest event, which was held January 22-28. It seemed to us that there were way more rigs parked around us than the previous few years. Our hosts Ray & Maureen, and co-hosts Chuck & Cindy, anchored down our desired location this year and were successful in putting up a reserve-zone to save space for 17 rigs!

This was one of the best attended SRH Quartzsite campouts in years! We haven't heard any final numbers yet for the Quartzfest event, but our SRH campout attendance was great! We had 17 rigs, including guests! Ray & Maureen Bush, Chuck & Cindy Taylor, Dan & Adrienne Sherwood, Margie Hoffman, Paul & Sue Craft, Bill & Pam Elliott, Bill Penn, Dick & Lynne Miller, Peter & Jane Griffith, Jim & Linda Koski, Rick & Austa Rogers, Andy & Charity Gippetti, Don & Barbara Schleuse, Carl & Beverly Feree, Dale & Melly Snider, and guests Mark & Debbie Sall from Palmdale, CA, Penny & John Shepherd from Longview, WA, and day visitors Pam & Jerry Frendian from Prescott, AZ, and Patrick Gilbert from the Santa Clarita Amateur Radio Club.

Some arrived on Friday & Saturday with good weather, others Sunday, still good, and a few brave souls braved the horrendous winds and dust storms and arrived on Monday. Traveling along the I-10 with near zero visibility and seeing trucks overturned must have been scary! Charity said it was like driving in the fog and Jane wore her mask INSIDE the RV because it was so dusty!

Once at Quartzsite, there were so many fun things to do! Whether one stayed at camp and visited with SRH friends and guests, played Rummikub, toured others rigs, helped fix things, or went on outings... it was fun! Some went shopping at the big tent, some headed for the deals at Tyson Wells, some flew drones, some did art, some test rode e-bikes, some participated in the organized events at Quartzfest, some hiked to the top of "Q" mountain, some went on the jeep excursion, some helped with the amateur radio license testing, and some just relaxed!

Highlights of the campout were:

- Morning Wake Up Call & Announcements by Andy Gippetti
- Morning coffee, muffins, and yogurt provided by our hosts
- Fresh picked oranges and lemons from Don & Barbara Schleuse
- Wahdingers!!! Once again, our "Wahdinger Queen" Barbara Schleuse stepped up to prep the sticks and manage the operation. Don't know what a wahdinger is? Think of a croissant on a stick, toasted over the fire, and filled with taco fixings.
- Fireside chats every night. Some nights were cut short due to the cold and wind!
- Potluck Breakfast - 6 dozen eggs were scrambled! (for the historical record, eggs at this point in time were over \$6 a dozen, due to a bird flu which caused a national egg shortage) Sausage, potatoes, fresh fruit, homemade cinnamon rolls, plus lots more!
- Visits to the BIG Tent! - 4 "Lectric" e-Bikes were purchased by Paul & Sue Craft, and Peter & Jane Griffith
- Tyson Wells - for all sorts of good stuff... like Bill Penn finding metal yard art for Sherry
- Bill Elliott's Breakfast Sandwiches!!! Bill got to wear his new cook hat! SRH Grill Master!!!
- Hike to the top of Q Mountain - led by Paul and Sue Craft. Dan Sherwood & Margie Hoffman rode their quads half way up. Andy Gippetti hiked half way up (with his

sore leg) and took drone pics. Charity Gippetti scaled it like a mountain goat! Peter & Jane Griffith, and Jim Koski, all 75+ years old, inspired us all by making it to the top!

- Quartzfest Jeep Tour - Peter Griffith, Jim Koski, and Andy & Charity Gippetti went on a 5-hour jeep tour. 52 jeeps! It was very cold and windy!
- Cibola Wildlife Reserve – Paul Craft was the chauffeur for Sue Craft, Linda Koski and Jane Griffith. They saw lots of Sandhill Cranes and Snow Geese.
- Visit to the Gum Museum in Quartzsite – Ray & Maureen Bush, Bill & Pam Elliott, Andy & Charity Gippetti, and Penny & John Shepherd attended
- Visit to Murphy’s Music Barn – Maureen Bush, Charity Gippetti, Adrienne Sherwood, and Penny & John Shepherd enjoyed
- Quartzfest Activities – Dan & Adrienne Sherwood were involved with testing for Amateur Radio Licenses
- The Pumper Dumper Man came! \$55 for big rigs and only \$25 for Andy’s tiny trailer
- Shade Pro RV Awnings (www.shadepro.net) – Came to repair an awning for Ray & Maureen Bush
- A few campers stayed to the end of the Quartzfest event and some beyond! – Ray & Maureen Bush, Dan & Adrienne Sherwood, Margie Hoffman, and Andy & Charity Gippetti, Bill & Pam Elliott, and John & Penny Shepherd. No Quartzfest ticket winners☺

A great big THANK YOU to Ray & Maureen Bush and their co-hosts Chuck & Cindy Taylor for hosting another awesome SRH campout!

