

THE CARAVANER

February 2009

MESSAGE FROM YOUR WAGON MASTER

Welcome Lazy Dazers to Buena Vista!

I hope you found a nice spot to share with your fellow Lazy Dazers at this beautiful campground. This is one place where having nothing to do is a huge advantage; just to sit and take in the beauty of our surrounding is a pleasure we don't get to experience enough. To top it off, there's an even much larger benefit, we have a splendid opportunity to sit back, relax, and enjoy our Lazy Daze family.

To make this caravan ideal, I trust you put in a good word for some outstanding weather. We don't need (or want) what we had here last year. The light rain last month at Lake Perris we can take, but the torrential downpour, gale-force winds and thunderstorms we experienced while here we can surely do without. We'll keep our fingers crossed that it will be a 180° difference. Come on blue skies and sunshine!

Some of the events taking place this week include; Mother Nature, a.k.a. Lurlie Edgecomb, plans to have a Nature Walk on Friday and Lydia Granger will again hold her scrapbooking class. Terry Tanner, as always, puts on a very informative talk about our Lazy Daze. Gordon Green is back and will hold a Computer meeting you won't want to miss. And of course, John Mailliard will conduct another nail-biting Washer Toss tournament comes Saturday morning. Laureta Gibbs, a.k.a. Mama Bear, is in Reno at their sons' bedside so the Women's Only will not be meeting. A huge "Thank You" goes to all those who put together a program for our enjoyment. If you have a talent, subject, or project to share, we're always looking for new people to give a talk, lead a discussion, or give a lesson or demonstration. It can be a one time event or just once in a while. There's a lot of talent amongst us – if you have something to share, how about sharing it with others?

An Important reminder: There can be only two rigs and two tow cars per site. We have these reduced rates on the basis that we double up in each site, having any more than that can cause a serious congestion problem. The road must remain clear for emergency vehicles at all times. This is a park rule and will be enforced. Also, because of the limited number of sites and the fact that they are spread out, the saving of sites, in order to be fair to everyone, is as follow: Only One Rig May Save Only One Site for Only One Night. The saved site must be marked with the rig number and name for whom it is being saved. Please be considerate of others, there is room for everyone, maybe just not as together as you would like. For the most part sites are on a "first come first served basis".



Staying Dry!

I do hope you get out and about to enjoy the scenery and our surroundings. And maybe, if we're lucky, we'll possibly get to experience some magnificent sunsets.

A belated Happy Valentine's Day to each of you!

Rosemary

A Word From Your Assistant Wagon Master



Welcome to Buena Vista everyone. Can you believe it is February? I sure can't. Didn't we just celebrate Christmas? Time is going by way too fast for me. We are in what seems to be pre spring weather. The trees are already putting out blossoms and new growth. We are supposed to be in winter for another month. Speaking of weather, I hope that it will be better here than it was at Lake Perris. Gary and I arrived on Monday and it was beautiful. Then by Tuesday the rain paid the camp a visit and decided to stay the whole week. One nice thing was that it was always a light rain and came in short spurts. We all managed and took it in stride. And there was NO WIND! All in all I really liked it. I am a winter person you see.

We stayed in a different area last month and it was really nice. There was actually green grass. Gary and I liked it a lot. There was still the challenge of leveling the rig. Don helped Gary level ours as I was getting frustrated because I wasn't a very big help. During the week when I had a quiet moment I would watch the ground squirrels chasing each other all around the camp ground. I think they thought spring was here already! They were fun to watch.

I am looking forward to a great campout here. It is a very beautiful place. I will be looking for you to say hi and to get my hugs. I hope that Mother Nature shines down on us this caravan and gives us some spectacular weather. Just think next month it will be spring! I still can't believe it. Time goes by too quickly. Well Lazy Dazers, here's to a beautiful caravan with lots of laughter and fun times together. Have a great campout and I will see you out and about.

Linda GeneSer
Assistant Wagon Master



WE SALUTE YOU

HOST TENT VOLUNTEERS FOR JANUARY

Ah, another year has started with a wonderful group of volunteers for the host tent at Lake Perris. I appreciate all that you do there. You are the very important people.

Allen And Sue Mercer
George and Rosie Reeder
Bob and Joanne Wayne
John Arroyo
Bob Schmahl
Al Granger
Don and Marjorie Richards
Marlin and Peggy Zabel
Betty Boshma
Bill Arthur
Lurlie Edgecomb
Randy Murray
Dave and Katharine Spencer
Bob and LuAnne Lowe
Jim and Marilyn Ramey
Ray and Charlotte Moon
Janet Baker
Sally Caulfield
Bob and Julie Simonson
The Class "C" Campers
The Nomads and
The Roadrunners

Despite the weather we had a great group of volunteers. You never let me down. Thank you.

Linda GeneSer #2745
Assistant Wagon Master

Craft Ideas!

Here's a new activity for the crafty and not so crafty during the caravan. We all have lots of pictures from our travels and family activities especially with our digital cameras. Why keep them in shoeboxes or on a camera chip. Have fun putting your adventures and stories in a scrapbook or card or calendar! I have several new toys that can be used to embellish your photos. My Cricut Expressions cuts many shapes and sizes. In Dec. we cut Christmas and Hanukkah shapes and at the Jan. Caravan we put hearts and Valentine greetings on cards and pages. In Feb. I am planning a states page. I can cut the shape of the state, flag, bird and flower. For March, I have lots of camping shapes including a class "C" RV and Bunnies for Easter card or page. I have a sticker maker and won a die cut and embossing machine. So bring your pictures and any scrapping supplies and create! I will always try to have extra supplies and am open to any ideas to improve the activity.



Lydia Granger—#2786



I Love Lake Perris!



Maybe this will do it?



Perfect!



Bob Smith showed his expertise with a Fly Casting class for all who enjoy the sport.

Washer Toss Challenge



John Mallaird organized the first Group Challenge Tournament.

Backscratchers — Byron Shaner and Verona McCutcheon won the match!

Class "C" Campers — Claude Potts and Carole Hurley came in second



Washer Toss



Winners were:

1st Place — Sue Mercer and Gene Caulfield

2nd Place — Vern Tutterrow and Jean Phillips



President Obama Home State Ball



Jack and Zack entertaining the crowd



Jack with Common



Jack and his wife Kim had the honor of meeting the new President and First Lady at the Ball

When I got home from Lake Perris on Saturday I had an email which had these pix from the President Obama Home State Ball. I want to share them with extended family so I can brag about my oldest granddaughter and her husband Jack Johnson. It was quite an experience for them to go to D.C. And for me to enjoy vicariously.

Gorden Baker—Rig #2112



Jack and Zack warming up backstage at the Ball



Hawaii's own, John Cruz, joined Jack and Zack on stage for their last 3 songs



Vice President, Joe Biden, on stage making a speech

Where Are We?

Submitted by John & Zoe Cairns — Rig # 2851



The winner of "Where Are We" for January is Terry Tanner and Bob Hawken

Location: Lone Pine Campground just below Mt. Whitney. You can see the Sentinels just to the left of our rig with a colorful sunset behind them.

Taken by Mikio & Dorothy Osaki
Rig #2945

The other photo entry was not recognized.

Location: Lake Valley BLM site - Ghost Town - just south of Silver City, NM

Taken by: Rod & Michele Murphy
Rig #2906

Setting the Record Straight:

Bird Bests

Birds are amazing creatures with their ability to fly, migrate and nest. Do you ever wonder which bird is the biggest, fastest, smallest and slowest? Here's some bird trivia - see if you know the answers to some of these bird facts!



All owls have an incredible sense of hearing, but Barn Owl tops the list.

Heaviest and Tallest: Ostrich, which weights up to 345 pounds and stands up to 9 feet tall.

Smallest: Bee Hummingbirds, which weights 0.056 ounces and is 2-¼ inches long.

Fastest Flight: Diving Peregrine Falcon, which has been clocked at 117 miles per hour.

Fastest Run: Ostrich at 60 miles per hour.

Slowest Flight: American Woodcock at 5 miles per hour.

Fastest Wingbeat: Hummingbirds. The Amethyst Woodstart and Horned Sungem flap their wings 90 times each second!

Slowest Wingbeat: Vultures at one wingbeat per second.

Longest Wingspan: Wandering Albatross at up to 11 feet, 11 inches.

Longest Migration: Arctic Tern at 25,000 miles round trip.

Most Aquatic: Penguins, which spend 75 percent of their lives in the sea.

Fastest Underwater Swimmer: Gentoo Penguin at 22.3 miles per hour.

Deepest Diver: Emperor Penguin at 1,772 feet.

Keenest Sense of Smell: Kiwi.

Keenest Sense of Hearing: Barn Owl (top right).

Best Mimic: Marsh Warbler with up to 84 songs.

Most Intelligent: African Gray Parrot with a vocabulary of 800 words.

Highest Price for a Bird Book: \$3.96 million for a set of John James Audubon's *The Birds of America*

First Bird on a U.S. Stamp: Bald Eagle

From *The Bird Almanac* by David M. Bird. Ph.D. (Firefly Books, 1999)

Submitted by Gene Caulfield—Rig #2033

Mother Nature

aka Lurlie Edgecomb #2285



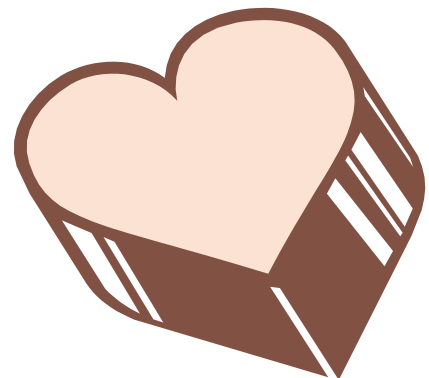
When I think of great blue herons, I envision the seashore or, at least, tide flats. However, Mother Nature has given these four-foot tall, long-legged waders the ability to live in other areas like lakes, streams, flood control channels and golf courses. Heron, and egrets too, nest in the crowns of tall trees like the eucalyptus planted at the old water park in Lake Perris. The old nests will get refurbished in early spring. Four nests were quickly spotted and three herons were up there waiting to lay claim to one. Herons can make quite a meal of freshwater clams, frogs, crawdads, and fish. They are able to broaden their diet with ground squirrels, moles, gophers, lizards and large beetles from further out in the park. Those bills make perfect spears.

Predators come in two-legged form as well as the four-legged ones. A hawk seen carrying a snake was one of the first reports from my field reporters. A white-tailed kite (this is a bird) was seen hovering, perhaps over a lizard. An osprey came back from a flight, probably over the lake. They hunt fish. We have seen an osprey for 3 trips now.

Ravens will take whatever isn't too big including young desert tortoises. I didn't see the roadrunner this time. Coyotes, raccoons, a bobcat, and skunks were around; some were heard, some seen and certain black and white things were smelled strongly Wednesday and Thursday nights. Remember, if there are predators, then there is a food supply; think of the many ground squirrels, cottontails, lizards and ducks available.

Wigeons with their light-colored stripe up their foreheads were on the lake along with coots, mallards, and others too far out to be sure of their identifications. Evenings were pleasant as at dusk quail and small birds would take to the trees for safety in the night and they talked to each other as they settled in. If you just stayed still, they would chatter away until dark. In the mornings, I could hear a few warblers, but never saw them. Meadowlarks singing along a walking trail in an open area, juncos pecking away at the ground, cottontails leaving their droppings after nibbling wild grasses, black phoebes darting out to get a bug, and a male hummer telling me I was in his territory, all of these were clues to the wild life around us.

This month at Buena Vista, we need to look for the owls, their nests and a variety of other nests. We've found big ones, smaller ones and the really neat pendulous ones woven by bush tits or orioles. February is not the right time to see nest activity so as to make an ID. When you spot something, be sure to let me know as I would like to plan for a walk, probably on Friday. If my legs are willing, the ground is level and I'm improving with time, I would like to get together with you.



Anniversaries



Bob and Cynthia Casebolt — 50 Caravans



Enos and Joyce Hirst — 175 Caravans



Les and Betty Payne — 50 Caravans

First Timers



Ken and Bev Schultz—Ayer, MA — #2965



Bill Burcham—Seattle,WA—#2964



At Lake Perris I only took one photo. Because our Friday potluck was rained out I ended up eating my frozen dinner in Payne's rig after Betty cooked it in her microwave. We had a wonderful evening together, and I took this picture of them before I went back to my rig. They are great No-Mads!

We will be helping them celebrate their 60th wedding anniversary in Augusts (though we won't be together at a caravan). And Les has an important birthday in July. I hope to be at Butterfield in March and that I will see most of you.—Gordon Baker—Rig #2112

Terry's Tech Talk

Tech Talk Article 39

Hooking Up to Shore Power

02/2009

Our rigs are loaded with electronics that are vulnerable whenever we use shore power. The refrigerator, microwave, water heater television, and countless other costly items all have circuit boards. Most of our air conditioners are put at risk if there is a brief power outage. It seems so simple to just plug the rig into the power pedestal and then relax and enjoy life in our iron tepee. Many RV Parks and campsites are decades old and the electrical distribution systems are not up to serving a facility full of modern Class A's running their dual air conditioners and host of other "everything we have at home" electrical/electronic devices all at once.

When I go to hook up my electrical cord to the pedestal, the first thing I do is take a good look at it. More than once I have found a charred or broken receptacle and then moved on to another site. A good thing to do is to turn off the circuit breaker before plugging in so that the chance of arcing between the prongs on the cord and the receptacle is reduced, plug in, and then flip the circuit breaker on. I have an adapter that plugs into the 30 Amp RV receptacle and has the normal 15 Amp three prong female plug on the other end. I plug this in and use a Receptacle Tester to see if the pedestal is wired correctly. The tester will show if there is an open ground, an open hot, or an open neutral; as well as if the Hot/Ground are reversed or if the Hot/Neutral are reversed. If the Tester does not show "Correct", do not connect the RV to the pedestal. Next I unplug the Tester and plug in a Voltage Meter and check for either low voltage or high voltage. If everything looks ok, then I turn off the circuit breaker in the pedestal, unplug my adapter and test devices, and then plug in my surge protector, connect the RV cord into the outlet of the surge protector, and then turn on the pedestal circuit breaker. The three devices are shown below:



Receptacle Tester (Under \$5)



Voltage Meter
(Under \$20)

Some plug in directly while others are on a short cord.

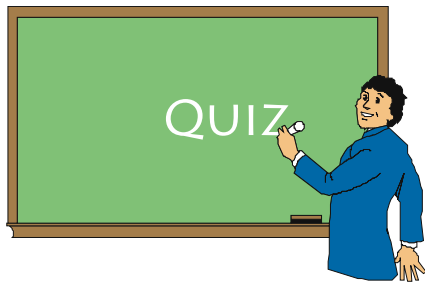


30 Amp Surge Guard
(\$200 to \$300)

The Surge Guard turns off power to the RV if the voltage drops below 102 Volts or rises above 132 volts for more than 8 seconds. Once power is restored to a safe range, there is a time delay of 2 minutes 16 seconds before power is restored to the RV. This allows for head pressure to bleed off the A/C compressor. Three mode surge protection protects from power surges without interruptions of power to the RV. Hard-wired surge protectors are available as well as the portable one shown.

[Techsnoz](http://autos.groups.yahoo.com/group/Techsnoz/), the "Tech Talk" website.

Check it out at: <http://autos.groups.yahoo.com/group/Techsnoz/>
Terry Tanner Rig #2779



Submitted by Claude Potts

Q: Which is the odd word out?

That Hat What Mat Cat Sat Pat
Chat Rat

A:

Q: What simple phrase is represented below?

Step right up! Yes sir for the ridiculously low price of just \$1, yes you heard me correctly sir, just \$1, you can be a winner! Okay, you've made a wise decision my friend! Wise indeed! Now just put your hand in this cloth bag containing 5, that's right not one, not two, but 5 differently colored pieces of paper! Very good sir and well done! Grab one of the pieces of paper...That's it!

A:

Q: If four kittens can eat four mice in four seconds, how many mice can 12 kittens eat in twelve seconds? (YUK!)

A:

Q: You have a very unreliable clock. It gains exactly 20 minutes every hour. It is now showing 4:00 AM. You know it was correct at midnight when you set it. The clock stopped 10 hours ago. What is the correct time now?

A:

Q: Six kings can be converted into what other word?

A:



Goodwill Ambassador Report

The year didn't end very well for some of our members. DONNA LAPORTE, #2711 of the Road Runners, lost her mother just before Christmas on December 21st and MARLIN ZABEL, #2861 of the Drifters, lost his mother on December 27th, while he was at Death Valley. We never like to lose our loved ones at that time of year, but sometimes it can't be helped and as we all know we never have control over that event.



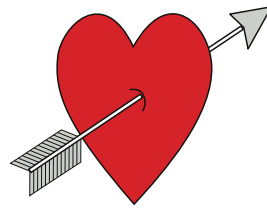
JANE FARWELL #2790, an At-Large member, broke her ankle just before Christmas. I hope that got her out of cooking Christmas dinner and cleaning up the kitchen, but I wouldn't want to go that far to escape the job. Sounds like she may need to borrow one of the afghans that she collects for the Painted Turtle.

Road Runners, JOE & LAURETA GIBBS #2641, need lots of prayers and positive thoughts from our members to guide them through this trying time in their lives. Their oldest son, Gregg, is in a Reno Hospital with a one-inch tear in his esophagus. At this writing, in early January, he was in a medical-induced coma. There is talk he may be there for about two months. UPDATE LATE JANUARY: We just found out that there was a second tear in his esophagus and he is still in a coma. DON & MARJORIE RICHARDS will be standing in as Uncle and Auntie Bear for them as they do not know when they will be back with us.

I hate to be a bad-news messenger but another of our Lazy Daze members is also having a hard time and would appreciate your prayers. AL & DORENE MELENDREZ, #2904 of the Outback's, have not been on caravan for some time as they lost their youngest daughter, Debbie, who was 41 years old due to complications from ovarian cancer and their oldest daughter, Cheryl who is 45 years old, is battling a recurrence of breast cancer. Any thoughts and prayers you send their way will surely help their hard road they must travel at this time in their lives.

FYI – Your Goodwill Ambassador sent 57 cards to our members for various reasons. Now I know that there must have been some that got missed and I'm sorry it happened. Just to remind all that I can't do my job if I have not been informed. People say it 'oh it isn't important or not worth the trouble', but we all like to be remembered and know that there are friends out there that feel you're worth it. So help me to do a better job in the coming year and keep me informed.

Mona Shaner
MonaL@sbcglobal.net



Valentine's Day is a celebration of love and lovers.

The roots of Valentine's Day goes back to ancient times, when people paid honor to the Roman God of Fertility. This was known as the Feast of Lupercalia, and was celebrated even then on February 14th.

The traditions of Valentine's Day are broad and many. It is a time to exchange cards or small gifts. Chocolates and jewelry are the big hits of this holiday as is romantic dinners.

It is a romantic event for lovers and a fun event for kids and family. Many a couple become engaged or wed on this day. For others it is a day to fall in love.

Did you know? While 75% of chocolate purchases are made by women all year long, during the days and minutes before Valentine's Day, 75% of the chocolate purchases are made by men. Over \$1 billion of chocolate is purchased for Valentine's Day.

Did you Know? February 14th was formerly thought to be the first day of bird's mating for the season. This sparked the custom of sending valentines to each other.

Did you Know? Cupid was a mischievous, winged child, whose arrows would pierce the hearts of his victims causing them to fall deeply in love. In ancient Greece he was known as Eros, the young son of Aphrodite. To the Roman's he was Cupid, and his mother Venus.

Did You Know? Roses symbolize peace and war, love and forgiveness. White roses are for true love. Red roses are for passion. Yellow roses are for friendship. Black roses mean farewell.

Did you Know? The Hallmark Company produced its first Valentine in 1913. Hallmark offers 1,330 different Valentine's Day greeting cards. In 2000, Americans spent more than \$3.6 billion on Valentine's Day. Yearly more than 900 million cards are exchanged. Valentine's Day is second only to Christmas for the number of cards sent.



From the Editor

The deadline for articles is the Sunday following each Caravan. Thank you for your continuing support in the production of the Caravaner.

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