



THE CARAVANER

*Welcome to Live Oak!
Hosted by the Road Runners*

May 2015

The Drifters want to thank everyone for all of their help while hosting at Tusalota Springs. The weather was as good as it could be, a little too warm in the sun, but quite comfortable in the shade. The baked goods that were given out as door prizes and also enjoyed with morning coffee were made by Georgeann Lovett and brought to the caravan by her husband, Rich. Georgeann was on an extended trip to visit friends and family, and concluded by a high school reunion in New York which was the main reason for the trip. Marlin Zabel was missing Peggy, who was in New Zealand with her church group to help a local church do some repairs and face lift. Joe Fletcher was missing Jane, who was in St. Louis to celebrate her brother in law's 90th birthday and help him get his affairs in order. These ladies were really missed by the Drifters and especially by their husbands. Thanks to everyone for your help.



WE SALUTE YOU

HOST TENT VOLUNTEERS FOR APRIL, 2015

Thanks to all the Host Tent volunteers that made the check in process go so smoothly.
Your dedication is appreciated

Jim & Ann Cook

Drifters

Lurlie Edgecomb

Bob Filler

Gary & Linda Geneser

Al Granger

Herb Johnson II

Herb Johnson III

Bob & Margot Kody

Don & Carol Kratzer

Bob & LuAnne Lowe

Don & Verona McCutcheon

Ruben & Jenny Pasillas

Claude & Carol Potts

Jim & Marilyn Ramey

Roadrunners

Mike & Margaret Skinner

Dave & Katharine Spencer

Sharon Turner

Gary & Velna Wells

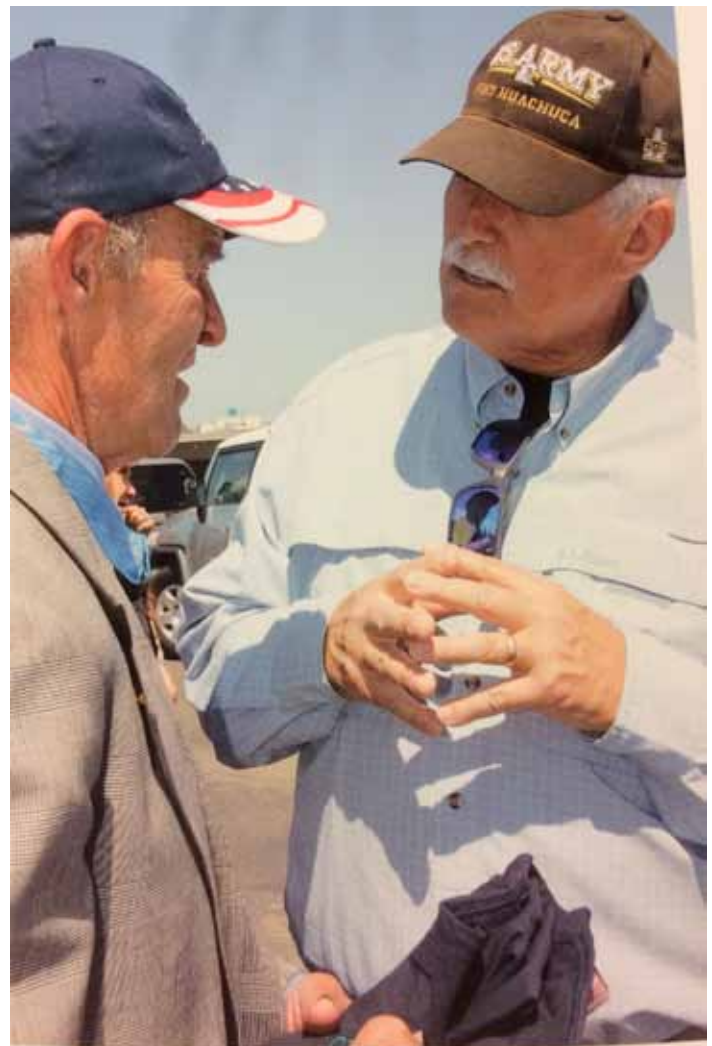
Greg & Sandy Young



First Timers



Kevin & Cindy Kelly — Garden Grove, CA



Attended a ceremony with my friend John Baca MOH and presented him with his honorary Outback T-Shirt. John was presented his Medal of Honor by President Nixon in 1971.

John & JoJo have been a fixture at Stage Coach Trails, during the past several years and lives in the historic town of Julian. — Greg Young



HAPPY 90th BIRTHDAY FREDDIE



Freddy Whitney was 90 yrs. old on Saturday, April 18 at the Tucolocta Springs campout. We had a tea party in the clubhouse to celebrate.



photos by C & J Fisher (#2886)



Washer Toss

Winners:
First Place — John VanWongerghem
Carol Kratzer
Second Place — Peter Peternouschek
Verona McCutcheon



Bunco

We had a Bunco game at Tualota Springs. Winner with most Buncos was Margaret Skinner. Most wins was Frances Surbrook and Most losses was Norm Martin.

Connie Johnson



Tualota Springs Hay Ride



Here's a bobcat track. I saw the cat near the lodge on Friday am, but he didn't wait around for his picture. — Bob Filler



MICKEY AND MINNIE MOUSE WASHER TOSS TOURNAMENT

Have you got your partner for the Mickey and Minnie Washer Toss Tournament? If you have, don't forget to sign up at the host tent.

Just remember, it is the women against the men when getting your partner. Please remember to put a bracket showing who your partner is. If you do not have a partner, we will try and find one for you, so sign up and say you need a partner.

DRY CAMPING TIPS

One of the most important items in the coach are the batteries. These need to be serviced frequently. Check water level & replenish if needed.

Another thing that too often gets neglected until it needs to be used is the generator. It should be used at least once a month with a load on it. The best load is using the air conditioner or vacuuming. The draw on batteries and propane is the furnace and water heater. The draw on the batteries is the TV and lights. Ignoring using the generator for an extended period can incur an expensive repair up to \$1000.

Solar panels can make a difference in keeping batteries out of a low voltage condition. Catalytic heaters use very little power and propane and are quite effective.

There are a lot of inverters on the market rated in watts. An inverter will convert DC 12 volts to 120 AC power. You will need to calculate the one that works best for your needs. You will be able to use some 120 AC accessories with an inverter, but this will also put additional draw on the coach batteries.

Stretch your water supply, bring extra water.

Remember that for extended generator use, you need to create a buffer zone. Generator noise is a nuisance, but fumes are a real hazard.

A Cool General Meeting



Mother Nature



Tucalota Springs in April was a pleasant place to be. Warm in the daytime, cool in the later evenings, some fitful breezes--only one was strong and it was gone quickly. In addition to the calls of the two albino peacocks, birds were heard every day--mourning doves were sad, an unseen warbler or two were cheery, western scrub jays weren't too noisy, black phoebes have a little chirp, the male red-wing blackbirds were melodic atop the dead-looking cattails in the far end of the pond. Anna's and black-chinned hummingbirds squeaked out their challenges to get a spot at either feeder hanging from the store porch, but the lesser goldfinches were much quieter as they pecked at the "sock" feeder in the nearby olive tree. I didn't hear anything from the towhees while they were on the ground which is where you see them most often.

Heard at night for several days were an owl hoot-hooting, coyotes singing in the distance, and frogs croaking. Running all over were ground squirrels with many young ones. Also bouncing along were cottontails--well, sort of. Not all those bunnies were the usual soft brown. Apparently a domestic rabbit or two has escaped the "zoo" and crossbred with the wild ones, but they all have that white puff of a cotton tail. The three mallards stayed together whether resting ashore or gliding across the open pond--two males and one female. Black phoebes picked off insects in mid-air. A quail ran across the downhill part of the loop, the only one I saw. The brown towhees with orange underparts were doing their chicken-hop and scratch--they will eat seeds or bugs.

Western scrub jays were the bluest I have ever seen them. A western kingbird with gray head and throat and light yellow belly and underparts watched us watching him/her as we headed around the backside of the pond area. Sexes are alike and migrate to Central America and back each year. They perch to watch for insect movement. Other wildlife included lizards, darkling beetles (stink bugs), and large ants. I heard of a strange bug from the young family camped above us. The children were afraid of getting bitten; I told them they didn't look like tubers so not to worry. The mom was showing me her cell phone picture of the creature. These emerge from the ground and are long-horned (think antennae) wingless grasshoppers called potato bugs, and are common in farm country to the bane of potato farmers. On Saturday, a red-tailed hawk soared above the campground. I had previously seen what looked like a young sparrow hawk, now called an American kestrel, just sitting in a bare tree watching a squirrel hole.

Earlier in the week, Greg Young spotted and heard an owl at the nest box close to his site. They are large and we saw several about camp as well as smaller ones to encourage other birds to stay near camp. One early morning, Bob Filler spotted a big cat returning from his walk uphill behind the clubhouse. By the time he swung to take a picture of what he was sure was a bobcat, only footprints were left. Al Granger came to tell me of a tortoise uphill behind the garage/barn along the dirt road. Sounded like a desert tortoise and it had disappeared into the sagebrush by the time we got back. From personal experience, I know turtles are not slow. There was hardly anything green around except chamomile, but they can survive long times without food or water which they take from plant life. Caryl and John Fisher experienced a hopping away kangaroo rat. On the hayride, the young tenters told of seeing a large bird of prey fly into a very big nest and pointed it out as we rounded the top of the loop. When the hawk is done with it, crows may take their turn, being the opportunists that they are. Why waste a perfectly good home?

A Sara orange-tip butterfly was looking for wild mustard and wild radishes to lay her eggs on as the caterpillar form must have those plants to eat. The tiger swallowtail we saw will need to find willows for the female to use for her eggs. The anise swallowtail needs to find fennel. Adult butterflies only drink nectar from a number of flowers, but the caterpillars need specific leaves to chew up as they grow and molt and molt again until finally they hang upside down and begin to change shape forming a chrysalis. Inside this form the tissue sorts of melts and reorganizes until 2-3 weeks later, the shell splits and a new, winged creature emerges. The miracle of life goes on.

Mother Nature aka Lurlie Edgecomb #2285



South of the Border Potluck at Live Oak!

Date: Friday 15 May 2015

Time: 5:00 PM

Place: At the Pavilion



Buenos Dias Senors and Senioritas!

The Roadrunner Group will provide a Taco Bar including Soft Shell Corn Tortillas, Ground Beef filling, Lettuce, Tomato, Cheese and Taco sauce.

Attendees will provide dishes based on a Mexican theme to complement the Tacos, i.e., Salads, Mexican Black beans, Refried Beans, Spanish Rice, Salsa, Guacamole, and Desserts

Please bring your own utensils, napkins, drinks and dishes.

***Wear colorful shirts, dresses and sombreros if you have them
and let's have fun!***



SAFETY TEAM MESSAGE

Dan Duran, a licensed Fire Extinguisher Technician, will return to Live Oak again on Saturday, May 16, 2015 for the purpose of recharging and sale of new extinguishers.

RECHARGE \$10.00–NEW EXTINGUISHER \$55.00

He sells the Amerex 3A 40BC Dry Chemical Fire Extinguishers. Dan Duran recommends that our motorhome extinguishers be recharged every year since they travel in our RV's and the powder packs down with constant road movement. Please note: Your motorhome may have come with a small extinguisher with a plastic head. These small extinguishers are not rechargeable and their ability to put out a fire is limited.

At 9:00am on Saturday bring your extinguishers to the pay table near the Host Tent. Make certain your name and rig # is on your extinguisher. A Sharpie permanent ink pen will be available, if needed.

At 9:00am on THURSDAY, come to the large fire pit for the Safety Teams fire extinguisher demonstration by Mike Bartel. If you don't know how to use the extinguisher quickly, what good is it? I will see all the ladies there. OK?

Joanne Wayne, Chairperson, Safety Team

? EMERGENCY ?

Call on CB Channel 30

CODE RED: FIRE/GAS LEAK

CODE BLUE: MEDICAL

**PLEASE Do Not Use the CB Until
The ALL CLEAR Is Sounded**

**PLEASE REMEMBER
To Park So You Don't
Block The Exit Of
Another Rig**

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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**Keep in the KNOW!
Pick up the latest news
from the
Lazy Daze website!**

