

California Heartland News

Paso Robles

"The Pass of The Oaks"



April 2021
Volume 1, Issue 3



Rally April 6th.—9th.

Well, Covid crushed our planned Christmas Rally at the Wine Country. But we were determined to come back as soon as conditions changed So another modified event without the use of a Club House but the resourceful Heartlanders made it work. Of coarse the beautiful weather was a big factor too.

Sam and I had to miss the rally at the last minute due to some medical issues tor hopefully a short duration. We were scheduled to help Louise and Woody Wilson with rally details. Once again, our VP, Mike Davidson and Melanie stepped-in to fill the gap. Many Thanks to them for a job well done. You can read Mike's rally notes on page (3). His report says it all; then he caps it off with the great pictures.

A Special Thank you to Elvin Kozachenko and his local buddy for arranging the tours at Estrella Warbirds Museum and Woodland Auto Display.

It appears that we have two new member couples. Please welcome: members, Gary and Consuelo Phelps and members being Recruited, Jerry & Barbara Rutch. See Bios on page (2)

Sam and I sure hope we will be able to attend the country Rally at Louise and Woody's ponderosa in Shafter in May

Our good buddy, Jerry Olson has now gone home to his Maker. His Celebration of Life was March 19th. Many Heartlanders were there. See Obit on page (8).



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(tear out and return)	

Officers & Directors

- President Dave Mendonca
- Vice President Mike Davidson
- Secretary Sam Mendonca
- Treasurer Melanie Freeman
- Nat'l Director Julie Burger
- Asst. Nat'l Dir Kim Cummings
- Director (open)
- Director Marilyn Peterson
- Director Woody Wilson
- Wagon Master Louise Wilson
- Membership Sam Mendonca
- Immediate PP Sandy Emerson
- News Letter Dave Mendonca

Presidents' Corner

"The Best is yet to come "

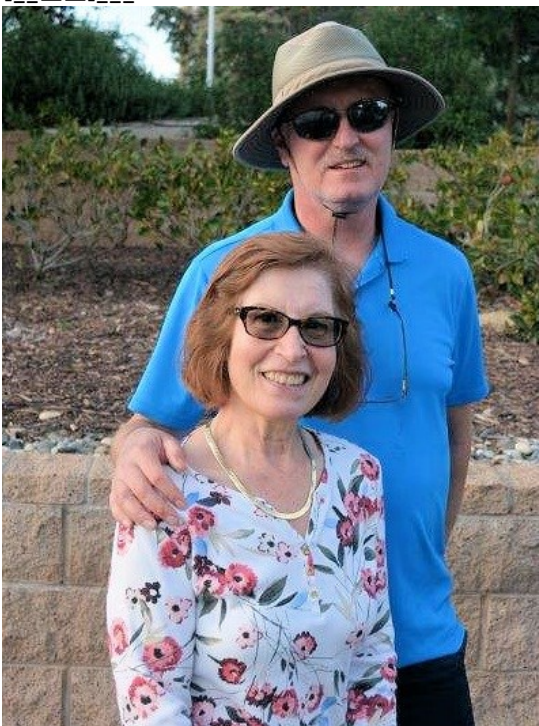
Get connected, stay informed, be involved:



Facebook is a great way to stay in the know, share information, and see pictures of our events. **Follow us at** www.facebook.com/californiaheartland

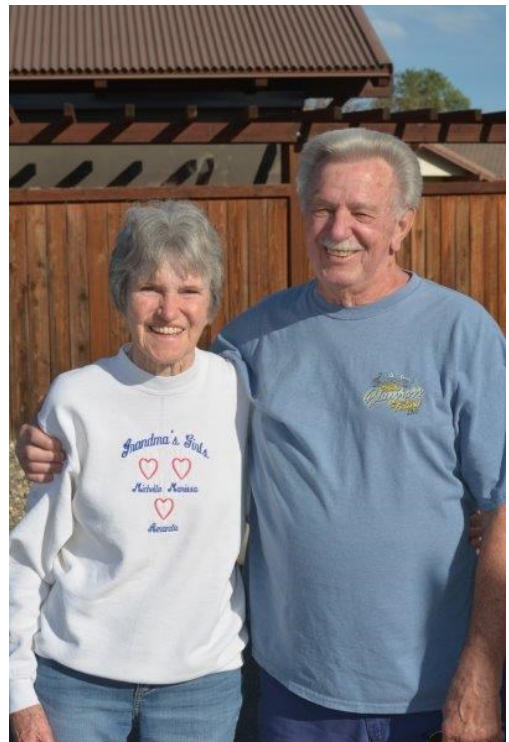
Flickr is where you will find all the event pictures taken, We currently have over 5,800 pictures indexed over 21 Rallies.. Once inside the site, click on the Albums tab.. **Go to** www.flickr.com/photos/caheartland

Western Motor Home Association WMHA Family Western Motor Home Association of FMCA is located at <http://wafmca.com/?> **This website takes you deep inside the 50 chapters represented by the Western Association of FMCA. Check out the newsletters and websites of the chapters. Here's where you can find tons of pictures and histories of past Indio Rallies.**



Our newest members, Gary & Consuelo Phelps, live in Atwater when not traveling in their very nice class C motorhome. Gary retired from the California Department of Corrections and Rehabilitation after 32 years of service. During his career he has worked at Vacaville, Corcoran, Delano, and Chowchilla. They lived in Hanford before moving to Atwater. Consuelo worked for the School District. They have three children, 2 girls and a boy, and 8 grandkids. They are Elks members and travel with Rocky, their Whippet. Gary is a bicycle fanatic, riding 3,100 miles last year. I am looking forward to checking out this bike he is so attached too. Gary found California Heartland looking through the FMCA site and felt our club was a good fit for them. Gary & Consuelo fit right in during their first rally, and we are happy to have them as new members.

Jerry & Barbara Rutch attended the Wine Country Rally as perspective members. I can tell you they fit right in with our group. You can tell they are always looking for a good time. Jerry spent his working life in the aluminum extrusions business, working for himself. He also owned a wholesale nursery and a cattle ranch. Barbara was a Legal Secretary for Bank of America. She put in 42 years, retiring as a Bankruptcy Officer. They live in Neenach, between Gorman and Lancaster, off Highway 138. They have one daughter, and three grandchildren. Their passions are Bluegrass Festivals, and RV travel. They are on the road 5 months a year, and have a long history of working and supporting Bluegrass Festivals. They started camping in 1979, and have owned 5 different rigs. The Rutch's are in the know on Bluegrass and recommended several festivals we should look into attending. Check out Northern California Bluegrass Society website to learn of all the festivals coming up. We hope Jerry & Barbara join California Heartland and join in on our fun.



Wine Country RV Park Rally

by Michael Davidson

Once again Louise & Woody Wilson did an outstanding job putting this rally together. It was so good to see old friends, and meet new ones. The way everyone was bragging about receiving their Covid 19 vaccines, made us all feel like things were getting back to normal. It was so nice to see handshakes and hugs, versus fist bumps and 10 foot waves.

Woody & Louise arrived a day early to make sure everything was ready to go. The rest of us rolled in Tuesday afternoon and quickly found our spots. We had a total of 13 rigs with 23 members, and 2 prospective members, in attendance. It did not take long to see everyone joining together with a circle of chairs in the shade of the tree. Had a great time catching up with what everyone had been doing, or in a lot of cases, not doing. Glen & Beverly Gee, long time members who have been absent for a while, purchased a nice 5th wheel January 2020, and this was their first outing in it. Our newest members, Gary & Consuela Phelps, joined us for their first outing with California Heartland. Met Richard & Gay Mehelic and learned they were good friends with some old Cal Fire folks I know. We all tried our best to make prospective members, Jerry & Barbara Rutch, feel at home. They have been involved with several other clubs and seemed to fit in nicely. Everyone was happy to be out camping again.

With restrictions placed on indoor dining, someone suggested we get pizzas and eat as a group at the campsite. What a great idea that turned out to be. In came 8 large pizzas and we ate our fill. The conversations continued until the sun went down, and the temperatures dropped. After a day of driving, sunshine, and fun conversation, people headed inside to relax.

We gathered at 8:00 AM to a breakfast of egg casserole, fruit, and muffins. Once again Louise went all out and it took several motor homes to heat all of the casserole dishes she had prepared. As you might expect, breakfast was excellent. Having the day to goof off, some folks headed to the beach, while others stayed back to relax and play games. Melanie & I joined the group that went to Pismo Beach to check out the new pier, and eat lunch overlooking the ocean. We also went down to see the Monarch Butterflies, but discovered most of them had already headed off. It was surprising to see how the population has decreased over the years. Years ago there would be 200,000 butterflies wintering there, last year there was only 4,000. We need to be more like Linda & Elvin Kovachenko, who plant milkweed in their yard to watch butterflies emerge from the chrysalis.

When we returned to camp, there was some real card game boasting going on. Seems there was one team that was tough to beat. Big Bubba's Bad Barbeque catered the dinner meal, and it was excellent. Some of us had barbeque sauce all over our hands, which was then covered with pieces of shredded napkins. We had ribs, chicken, coleslaw, mac and cheese, and onion rings. What a meal. After dinner, some of us gathered around the campfire, while others continued their card games. It was the perfect end to a perfect day.

Thursday morning we gathered for a continental breakfast and a quick Heartland General Meeting. Elvin arraigned a tour of the Estrella Warbirds Museum. What a fantastic place that is. Not only is there a vast collection of military artifacts, aircrafts, vehicles, and memorabilia, they are also the home of the Woodland Automobile Display. I could write pages about the great things we saw there, but I am afraid Editor Dave is probably already looking to see how he can shorten this story. All I can say is go check it out. Even if you have been there before, I am sure you will find many additions. The Woodland collection alone is worth the price of admission.

After the museum, Louise fixed a huge pot of Cowboy Stew and everyone added their favorite side dish or desert. Like every California Heartland Rally, if you went away hungry it was your own fault. We had another nice time around the campfire, while the card players continued their competition. I heard one team won all but one of the games, but I can't prove that to be true.

Friday morning we gathered for a continental breakfast and waved to those leaving early. Several in the group were headed to other destinations, while some of us had to head home. It did sound like most would be attending the next rally at Louise & Woody's house which will occur May 11-14th. I suggest you mark your calendars and come join in on the fun. You know those two will put together a great event, and Woody says he will give us a big discount for boon docking at his resort. I also heard a rumor that Sheldon and Beverly will be hosting the breakfasts each morning, and they plan on having coffee!!! Hope to see a great turnout for this rally. Until next time, safe travels.

CALIFORNIA HEARTLAND CHAPTER - FMCA
Treasurer's Report 4/9/2021

Beginning Balance	Checkbook Balance as of November 15, 2021	6,443.10
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Monies Received and Deposited

12/23/2021	Dues	Return Check Charge	24.00
02/02/2021	Dues	Membership Dues	80.00
02/03/2021	Dues	Membership Dues	108.00
02/18/2021	Dues	Membership Dues	66.00
04/09/2021	Rally	Wine Country Rally	3,062.00
04/09/2021	Rally	Pink Pig Money	47.00

Total Received	3,387.00	3,387.00
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Disbursements

02/02/2021	3131	Dave Mendonca, Office Supplies	118.49
02/24/2021	3132	CeC Fisher, Badges	19.50
04/07/2021	Debt	Big Bubba Barbeque	357.72
04/08/2021	Debt	Wine Country RV Park	2,440.00
04/08/2021	3133	Food, Louise Wilson	256.72

Total Expenses	3,192.43	(3,192.43)
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Checkbook Balance		6,637.67
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NOTES TO STATEMENT:

Wine Country Rally Breakdown

Rally Money Received	3,062.00
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Total Received: 3,062.00

Expenses

RV Park	2,440.00
Food	609.24
Decorations & Paper Goods	25.20

Total Expenses: 3,074.44

Rally Profit / Loss	- 12.44
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Advance deposits paid pending:

Orange Grove RV cancellation-roll over, 4/12/2019
Old Floating Deposit on file for Hanford Rallies
Casa De Fruta RV Park (\$50)

California Heartland FMCA General Meeting Minutes

DATE: April 8, 2021 **LOCATION:** Paso Robles, CA **Number of rigs – 13** **Number of Members – 25**

MEETING CALLED TO ORDER BY: Vice-President Mike Davidson, due to the absence of President Dave Mendonca, @ 9:29 A.M.

PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE : Led by Mike Davidson **SONG:** God Bless America – Ron Reimer

PRAYER: Julie Burger

ACTING SECRETARY: Louise Wilson: The prior minutes were, read, approved and published in the Newsletter to be read by the Membership.

TREASURER: Melanie Freeman: Reported the balance at this time is \$6,583.11

WAGON MASTER: Louise Wilson: Read the current list of future Rallies which will be printed in the Newsletter as well as a Questionnaire regarding possible future Rallies, depending on the interest. As Trail Boss for this Rally she thanked everyone for help here at Wine Country. Secret Sheriff, Mike Davidson decided that since there were so many infractions and we have not gotten money for our end of year Charity Donation we would all donate \$5.00 to the Pink Pig.

ASST WAGON MASTER : Sandy Emerson: No Report

NATIONAL DIRECTOR: Julie Burger: National is in July at Gillette, WY, she will be attending.

DIRECTOR: Woody Wilson : no Report. Marilyn Peterson : Absent Jerry Olson: Deceased

NEWS LETTER EDITOR: Newly Elected Editor, Dave Mendonca, was absent. Sending the message that he must receive all news for the Newsletter within 7 days after this Rally.

HOSPITALITY: Newly appointed Chairman is Sandy Emerson.

MEMBERSHIP CHAIRPERSON: Due to the untimely death of Jerry Olson, our Chairperson, SAM Mendonca will assume those duties.

OLD BUSINESS: Reminded everyone, again, to use Heartland's Facebook which is updated regularly:

www.facebook.com/californiaheartland or www.flickr.com/photos/caheartland or <http://wafmca.com/> .

Mike mentioned the checks that everyone who signed up and paid to go to the Tuscon, AZ National Rally should have received from FMCA Mike also reminded us to use the Door Knob Packets that we have to encourage new members. "Share the Word".

NEW BUSINESS: Welcomed New Members Gary & Consuela Phelps and Guests Jerry & Barbara Rucker. Elections are in November so we will need a nominating committee soon. Think about that. Mike wants our drivers to be aware of California Senate Bill 210 when it comes out. It will affect Trucks, may add Motorhomes.

BIRTHDAYS: Celebrated Richard Mehelic & Dave Mendonca.

MEETING ADJOURNED: 10:10 A.M. Louise Wilson Acting Secretary, California Heartland







Obituary
Gerald "Jerry" Olson
1942— 2021

(reprinted from Visalia Times Delta)



Gerald "Jerry" Olson, 78, spent New Year's with Jesus after a month-long struggle with COVID-19. He passed away peacefully on December 31, 2020.

Jerry was born February 9, 1942 in Minneapolis, MN to Henry and Gladys Olson. He was the oldest of 4 children. He graduated from Vocational High School, in Minneapolis with a major in Printing.

Jerry married Nancy Nelson on June 5, 1965 in Hendrum, MN. After getting married, Jerry and his bride moved to CA and graduated from Cal Poly San Luis Obispo. After graduating, the couple moved to Visalia in 1968 where Jerry began working at Jostens. In later years, he began a career as a salesman in specialty advertising where he met and maintained many business relationships as well as friendships.

In his retirement, Jerry enjoyed traveling in his motorhome with his wife of 55 years and was active in Heartland Motorhome Group as well as Fresno Floaters Motorhome Group. Jerry was also a member of Christian Motorcycle Association and enjoyed ministry and riding with this group for many years.

Jerry deeply loved the Lord as his Savior and spent many years involved with ministries as Neighborhood Church choir director, boys brigade leader and served as a deacon for many years. Currently, Jerry was attending Gateway Church as well as the Nazarene Church in Visalia.

Jerry is survived by his wife, Nancy Olson of Visalia, 3 sons; Scott (Sandy) Olson and Kevin (Robyn) Olson, both of Visalia and Ryan Olson of Tacoma, WA; 1 brother, Bruce (Linda) Olson of Buckley, WA; 2 sisters; Carolyn Hedges of Walla Walla, WA, and Doreen (Mike) Murray of Cedar Willow River, MN; 6 grandchildren; Matt, Erin and Ty Olson, Sydney, Owen and Reese Olson, all of Visalia. He is preceded in death by his parents, Henry and Gladys Olson and his first grandson, Andrew Christian Olson.

A Celebration of Life service was held March 19, 2021 at the Heart of the Valley (old neighborhood Church) in Visalia. It was standing room only with many members of California Heartland attending.



Louise Wilson's
Cowboy Stew for 10

- 6 Slices Bacon, cut in pieces
- 1 Cup Onion, chopped
- 1 Clove Garlic, chopped
- 1 ½ Pound Ground Beef
- 2 Large Cans of Tomatoes (diced or whole)
- 1 tsp Salt – ¼ tsp Pepper – 1 Tbls Chili Powder (or to taste)
- 1 12oz Can Kidney Beans, do not drain
- 1 12oz Can Corn, drained
- 2 Cups Cubed, Raw Potatoes

Cook Bacon until crisp, drain on paper towel, set aside
Sauté Onion, Green Bell Pepper, & Garlic in the Bacon Drippings
Until Tender. Add Ground Beef & Cook until Lightly Browned.
Add Tomatoes, Salt, Pepper & Chili Powder. Pour Into Large Pot,
Cover & Simmer 30 Minutes. Add Vegetables & Simmer 15 minutes longer.
Sprinkle With Bacon (I add it to the Stew) Serve with Garlic French Bread
Can Be Simmered as long as you want! If you want it juicier add V8 juice.

Beverly Gee's famous Chile Fritos Salad

(1) 120z bag of frozen corn (I always add a little more than that). Thawed (2) cups grated cheddar cheese—one green pepper diced—1/2 cup finely chopped red onions—one cup of mayonnaise— you can mix this in advance the day before or hours before—then right before you're getting ready to serve it you add one bag, 10 and half ounce bag Chili Fritos—and you can crush them in the bag—just a little so they're not so big.—(remember-has to be CHILI FRITOS) - toss right before serving-delish—let me know how it goes. Serves about 10 to 12 people maybe a little more depending on how big a scoop they take.



Yummy Breakfast Casserole by Louise Wilson

Breakfast Casserole Serves 4-8
 4 Eggs - 2 T Flour - 1/2 tsp Salt } Beat Eggs, add balance
 1 Can Evaporated Milk }
 1# Cheddar Cheese - Shredded } 2nd Layer
 1/2# Monterey Jack - Shredded } 1st Layer
 1 7oz Can Diced Chili's - Mild }
 1# Cooked, Drained Sausage } 3rd Layer
 Layer Chilis (1st), 1/2 of Cheese (2nd), Meat (3rd)
 Mix Egg mixture with whisk, Pour over layers
 Bake at 350° for 45 min. Let set 10 min
 Can be multiplied but bake in single batch. Freeze well.



QUESTIONNAIRE FOR POSSIBLE FUTURE RALLIES (Tear off and return)

Please mark the spot that applies to your feelings about each of the following Venues.

	YES	NO
FMCA NATIONAL RALLY IN GILLETTE, WY JULY 7 – 10, 2021	_____	_____

Comments:

	YES	NO
ROCKY MOUNTAIN AREA RALLY IN TUSCON, AZ OCTOBER 20 – 23, 2021	_____	_____

Comments:

	YES	NO
BALLOON FESTIVAL OCTOBER, 2022 ALBUQUEQUE, NM Date could be adjusted.	_____	_____

Comments:

- DRAFT HORSE CLASSIC SEPTEMBER 17 – 20, 2021 YES NO

- If you're interested call Sandy Emerson ASAP Cell 209-401-1593 as she needs money by May 1st to get the tickets and the packet that she likes. Sandy goes every year and is willing to make arrangements for anyone who wants to go too.

- **Return this form to Louise Wilson, our Wagon Master**
- You can Add to this form by hand, copy it and Text it to me, 661-706-3686, Mail it to me: 30767 Burbank St. Shafter, CA 93263, Bring it to the next Rally or any other Techy way you know.