

# CUATRO ESTADOS

## The Prez Sez ... April went out like a LION!

Most of April was delightful in our southwestern part of the country, with warm temps & May flowers blooming everywhere and very little of the “infamous”. Now that we’re ready to welcome May, we get the April “UNwelcome” instead. What do *Cuatro Estados* members do at a rally when -- instead of the expected 80-degree weather -- it blows cold winds & freezing rains? We make the weather part of the adventure! Such was the case for the **April rally at Towaoc**, Colorado. (See report elsewhere in newsletter.) But now that we are at the **May rally at Moab**, Utah, it’s starting out to be delightful weather and a better-weather rally is expected. (Report on this rally will be in June newsletter.)

It’s been a joy to continue meeting some of our new members at rallies, and we’re so glad they are “jumping right in” and sharing the fun and adventures – at Ajo and Chandler rallies, and now again at Towaoc and Moab. Hope this trend continues! Invite your friends and acquaintances who have RV’s to join us at a rally in the future. The regional rally in Farmington is always a great way to find out what Cuatro Estados and FMCA are all about.

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Note changes to the rally schedule in “The Rest of the Rallies.”  
Busy June coming up!

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## June 3-7, 2017 – Creede, CO Mountains Views at Rivers Edge RV Resort Rallymasters: Rae & Dub Phillips

Sat, 3<sup>rd</sup> – Arrival date – **5:00 pm**, we’ll do our usual first night of “heavy” snacks (enough to call it dinner). Remember to bring your own drinks, mess kit (utensils, plate, etc.), and folding chair. We’ll gather at Phillips rig. (Check at gate when you

register for our site #, or call us.)

Sun, 4<sup>th</sup> – **Pack a lunch**. Depart at **9:00 am** for **Bachelor Loop/Willow Creek Rd** drive, just east of Creede. This is an easy historic drive through time of the heyday mining years in the area (gravel/dirt road). May include a loop around the area of Creede too. **5:30 pm** – **Salad Potluck** (bring some type of salad to share).

Mon, 5<sup>th</sup> – **Pack a lunch**. Depart at **9:00 am** for **Lake City**. This drive will be mostly on paved roads, through the amazing scenery of the San Juan Mountains. We’ll see water falls, earth slides, historic mining areas, and the headwaters of the Rio Grande (this portion on gravel road). **Happy Hour at 5 pm**. On your own for dinner.

Tues, 6<sup>th</sup> – **Pack a lunch** (notice a daily theme here?). Depart at **9:00 am** for **4WD route out to site of Hanson Mill**. For hardy souls, can take rougher jeep trail from there out to **Wheeler Geological Area** – an amazing display of unusual rock formations, which includes a hike to actually get to them. If doing that, plan on a long day, as you won't get back before dark (take enough food/drink to call it dinner too). Also, for hikers, there's a foot trail to Wheeler from Hanson Mill, but again plan for a long day/evening. **5:00 pm Happy Hour**, dinner on your own.

Wed, 7<sup>th</sup> – Day on your own. Walk the streets/shops of Creede, or hang around at camp visiting with friends and new arrivals (coming in for the Region 1 Rally of FMCA Rocky Mountain Area). Or we may have another jeep trail to explore for those interested. Be sure to check in with the folks running the Regional rally sometime today; this is attendees arrival date.

### **June 7-11 -- REGION 1 RALLY – Creede CO Mountain Views at Rivers Edge RV Resort**

Rallymasters: Jamie Erickson 505-330-1380, Connie Jones 719-499-9740

Rally fee \$60/couple (\$30/person), payable by April 25<sup>th</sup> to Jamie Erickson, 605 Meseta, Farmington, NM 87401. Children 10 and under \$15.

(Don't have times yet on events, but hopefully they will have more details upon arrival.)

Wed, 7<sup>th</sup> – Happy Hour, bring heavy hors d'oeuvres to share (in clubhouse)

Thurs, 8<sup>th</sup> – **Breakfast provided**. Day on your own. Evening movie night with hot dogs and popcorn provided.

Fri, 9<sup>th</sup> – Breakfast on your own. **Lunch provided**. Happy Hour and Potluck Dinner (bring a dish to share). In clubhouse.

Sat, 10<sup>th</sup> – **Breakfast provided**. Afternoon activities. (This is also the beginning of Creede's 125<sup>th</sup> anniversary, with a "Donkey Dash" Race at 1 pm.) Happy Hour and **Dinner provided**.

Note: This year we are making the **Creede Repertory Theatre** one of things you can do. **Friday at 7:30 pm or Saturday matinee at 1:30 pm**. The show is a musical comedy "She Loves Me" and the cost is \$40/person. Please call the theatre to reserve: 719-658-2540.

Sun, 11<sup>th</sup> – Departure day. Or stay longer & explore this region further. Or head to Jemez Springs for following rally.

### **June 12-16, 2017 – Jemez Springs, NM Jemez Falls Campground (Santa Fe National Forest)**

Rallymasters: Becky & Bob Coulter, [coulter06@comcast.net](mailto:coulter06@comcast.net)

No reservations required; this is first come first serve. But please RVSP to Becky! Dry camping, so come with water tank full and other holding tanks empty. We will try to all get into Loop #1 (look for Coulters rig there); sites can accommodate 40 ft. rigs. The rate is \$10/night or \$5 with senior pass. The campground is located on State Hwy 4, six miles east of La Cueva, about a mile down a turn off road (well signed). For more info on the campground/area, go to [www.fs.usda.gov/recarea/santafe](http://www.fs.usda.gov/recarea/santafe) and select campgrounds, Jemez Falls.

Mon, 12<sup>th</sup> – Arrival day. Campers must be out by 2 pm, so should be there by then if possible, ready to grab a vacated site. **5:00 pm, Taco Bar Dinner**. Provided: hard taco shells, soft tortillas, beef brisket. Bring: other choices to go in tacos, i.e., fish, chicken, cheeses, lettuce, onions, etc. OR a dish of something else that goes well with tacos, such as refried beans or Spanish rice. Let's coordinate; let Becky know what you will be bringing.

Tues, 13<sup>th</sup> – **8:30 am departure for Bandelier & Los Alamos.** Travel to the **Tsankawi Village** area of Bandelier National Monument, detached from the main unit. Visit ruins, cave dwellings, petroglyphs. Moderate 1.5 mile loop trail, 200 ft elevation change, but involves going up 3 wood ladders. Lunch at the **Blue Willow** in Los Alamos. Then visit **Los Alamos Historical Museum** (\$5). The museum features the **Manhattan Project**; enter the actual gate of the project's Santa Fe headquarters. Walk through "Life in the Secret City." Also features area geology; learn how and why the Jemez Volcano erupted 1.4 million years ago.

Wed, 14<sup>th</sup> – **9:00 am departure. Pack a lunch.** We'll take a lovely back road drive to **Tea Kettle Rock**, where we'll picnic. Return will be via the **Gilman Tunnels** to Jemez Springs, then a quick stop at **Soda Dam** before returning to camp.

Thurs, 15<sup>th</sup> – **8:30 am departure for Jemez State Monument**, historic site in Jemez. **10:00 am brunch at Jemez Stage Stop** (Celebration pancakes: blue corn pancakes with bacon, cheese & green chile. Sounds strange but they are wonderful!) Couple of choices after that: **Jemez Pueblo Walatowa Visitors Center & Museum** in the Red Rocks Area (fry bread anyone?). Or soak at the **Giggling Springs** (575-829-9175, 1 hr \$25, 2 hrs \$40). Meet at **Ponderosa Winery** about 3:00 pm for sampling some great local wines. 5:00 pm return to camp via a back road Hwy 290. Top off the day with **6:00 pm happy hour and heavy snacks.**

Fri, 16<sup>th</sup> – **9:00 am Potluck Breakfast** before going our separate ways.

### **Past Rally Adventure ...** **April 26-30 Towaoc CO rally, Sleeping Ute RV Park** Rallymasters—Barry & Jann Engleman, Rae & Dub Phillips



We had everything BUT nice weather thrown at us during this rally, including SNOW. But we still managed to keep MOST of the original schedule. This is a nice campground, with real grass and trees at each site. And having a casino next door didn't hurt either, when we didn't want to cook.

26<sup>th</sup> -- A decent (weather wise) happy hour gathering the first night quickly gave way to cold winds and rains nearly all night. (They didn't have a rec room or space for us to gather, so we were outside by Phillips rig.)

27<sup>th</sup> -- Next morning most were game to drive out **McElmo Canyon** (very scenic) and try the **Sand Canyon hike**. Managed part of it before rains ran us back out to our cars. But we added a stop at **Hovenweep National Monument** in route back to camp, and a few even braved the gale force winds there to hike the trail. So between the two, saw some beautiful

country and a number of ruins in the “Canyons of the Ancients.” Great food (and brew) at the **Main Street Brewery** that evening topped off an exciting day.



28<sup>th</sup> – We were greeted with partial sun and bitter cold winds this morning, but many of us took the guided tour in **Ute Tribal Park** anyway. Surrounding the southern half of Mesa Verde National Park, this newly declared Ute tribal park has been established to protect the hundreds of ‘ancient ones’ sites scattered throughout the region. The entertaining guide provided some very

interesting background & stories and showed us a few historic sites. Tonite’s SPAM potluck was changed to seafood buffet at the Casino next door.

29<sup>th</sup> – After waking to SNOW, the scheduled drive up the length of **Montezuma Canyon** (38 miles of dirt road from Cortez CO to Monticello UT) was well worth challenging the cold-winds weather for. Hearing a man say he was lost was one for the record books (but at least he had enough sense to realize it, stop, and ask a woman for directions ...) (smart man). We ate lunch in our cars at the (unattended & unprotected) Three Kiva Pueblo, where an intact kiva could be climbed down into. Later on in the run we encountered many “alcoves” naturally created in the sandstone cliffs that man had used for everything from storing farm equipment to building houses in.



30<sup>th</sup> – After breakfast at a local restaurant, most everyone went their separate ways to discover new trails, drive Mesa Verde National Park to see the views and ruins, or relaxed at camp (once again in challenging cold winds, but at least sunshine). That evening it calmed down enough for us to hold a final happy hour with leftovers – finally using up that SPAM that we’d brought – and a chance to visit. It was nice to once again get to know some new members! A challenging rally weather-wise, but still enjoyed by all!

**Attending the rally: Zawistoski, Coulter, Williamson, Redman, Phillips, Krouse, Downs, Eckel, Engleman, Glasmann, and McVey/Skaug.**

## THE REST OF THE 2017 RALLIES

(Dates are arrival and departure dates)

**July 1, Sat – 4 pm. Backyard Potluck Picnic at Buckingham in Albuquerque.** We'll furnish hamburgers, hot dogs, fixings, lemonade, beer, sodas, table ware. Others can bring side dishes including salads and desserts. All Cuatro Estados members who live outside the area are of course welcome too; plenty of RV parks in area if wish to bring your rigs to ABQ for the extended 4<sup>th</sup> of July weekend. Or we could get you a couple of nights stay at one of our ABQ members homes – let Rae Phillips know if you'd like a place to stay. Otherwise, RSVP to Lynn Buckingham by June 20<sup>th</sup>. 505-298-1239, [lynnbuck2@msn.com](mailto:lynnbuck2@msn.com).

**Cancelled! July 2-8 Divide/Woodland Park, CO. Mueller State Park.** Rallymasters – Sandi & Steve Varleys, 801-641-4416, [sndyvarley@yahoo.com](mailto:sndyvarley@yahoo.com) – are still going, and will be in site 44 Conifer Ridge Campground. If you can get reservations nearby (Diamond Campground & RV Park, Woodland Park, 10 miles from Mueller, 800-410-0377), you are very welcome to join them. Please let them know if so. An amazing area for exploring!

### Join us for back-to-back rallies in August! Aug 9-19

**Aug 9-14 Prescott AZ.** Point of Rocks RV Park, 928-445-9018. At Watson Lake, The Dells area. Opportunity to explore local lakes in kayaks. We'll also experience the cowboy lifestyle of the old west, and hike/bike some scenic & interesting places. Rallymasters – **Becky & Bob Coulter**, 505-814-1293, [coulter06@comcast.net](mailto:coulter06@comcast.net). You should have made reservations in February. Separate email about this rally was sent to members. Also happening in this same timeframe: Cowboy Poetry Gathering in Prescott 8/10-12; daytime events free of charge. We'll attend Thursday evening performance (\$).

**Aug 14-19 Williams AZ.** Canyon Motel & RV Park; 928-635-9371. Full hook-ups. More adventures await us at this central location for exploring back country roads; and of course there's always Grand Canyon! Rallymasters -- Diane **McVey** & Bob **Skaug**, 951-850-1566, [dondiana@verizon.net](mailto:dondiana@verizon.net). Should have this reserved by now!

### And a few more rallies before the year is over ...

**Sept 21-24 Farmington, NM.** FMCA Rocky Mountain Area "Ramble" regional rally, McGee Park & San Juan County Fairgrounds. More info will be forthcoming in FMC Magazine and RMMA's website, at which time reservations can be made. **Need chapter coordinator.** These regional rallies are always educational and fun!

**Oct 18-23 Ruidoso, NM.** Little Creek Park, Alto, NM. 575-336-4044. Celebrate Oktoberfest in Ruidoso! Please reserve SOON, but no later than **Sept 15<sup>th</sup>**. Rallymasters – Sanna & John **Obermiller**, 575-258-4084, [johsanna@trailnet.com](mailto:johsanna@trailnet.com).

**Nov 9-13 Elephant Butte Lake State Park, NM.** Water & elec only; dump station available. No reservations this time of year. **Need rallymasters!**

## BIRTHDAYS & ANNIVERSARIES

### BIRTHDAYS

**Jose Soto**

### ANNIVERSARIES:

**Dub & Rae Phillips 5/12**

**Bill & Karen Appleby 5/15**

**John & Carol Herr 5/16**

**Bob & Gail Downs 5/17**

**Jose & Cathy Soto 5/22**

**Barry & Jann Engelman 5/31**