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Cuatro Estados Newsletter

MAY 2018

We seem to be in a big “gap” right now, in terms of schedule! The April rally was at the first of the month, the May rally is at the END of the month. Lots of weeks in between without a rally – not very good planning? BUT given the winds our region has had in the weeks in between, I’m glad we’re NOT out trying to camp in it! And add the lack of rain... we’re facing major fire issues in our forests. Pray for rain -- even if it might “dampen” a future rally!

A BIG **CONGRATS** goes out this month to alumni **GENEVIEVE & CHARLES CARLSON**, who celebrated their **75th anniversary** on May 1st! These days it’s rare enough to celebrate 50th anniversaries with some of our members -- which we’ve been blessed to do --but this is **really special!** Charles says it’s because Genevieve was allowed to always be right ... She says it didn’t hurt that he owned a jewelry store. (He didn’t start out that way; he served in WWII overseas, and was a diesel mechanic.) **Members since 1992, they were one of the inspirations behind our chapter’s theme of adventure,** always ready to take that hike, explore that jeep trail, camp in strange places, and travel the unknown. The last rally they attended was in 2015 in Tombstone AZ; they only recently relinquished the RV. We will celebrate Charles’ 100th birthday in November. ***We should all be so blessed to be enjoying this lifestyle well into our 90’s!***

Be sure to review the **updated schedule**; we have a chapter coordinator for the June Creede Region 1 Rally! Thanks, **Tom & Pat Krouse!** Please let them know if you’ll be attending.

We’ve got 16 rigs attending the May rally! (Sometimes it can be as few as 5 ... we never know.) **A challenge for choosing rally locations.** (A problem IF that same number want to attend the Bland UT rally; they only have 14 sites – so book NOW if you want one of them.) We wonder at times why people stay members when they seldom make a rally. But I have to say I’m grateful I don’t have to find a place that will take 50 rigs for a rally! I’m excited we all have busy lives with many other trips/travels going on, because sharing places we’ve been with one another is wonderful! Ask around and sooner or later you’ll find someone who’s been where you’re going! – Happy Trails! Rae



May 20-25, 2018 Rally
“Celebrating our Country & Flag”
ANGEL FIRE RV RESORT, Angel Fire, NM
Rallymasters: Don & Linda Feltner
303-232-0859, cell 303-882-7538,
donlindafeltner@q.com

We’ll feature a “red, white & blue” theme celebrating America. [Bring/wear anything patriotic ... in honor of the upcoming Memorial Day.](#)

Please note: we have changed the schedule around. We now have 16 rigs/32 people coming to rally – and most will not know one another, so a wonderful opportunity for making new friends! **BRING/WEAR YOUR BADGES PLEASE.** But the restaurants we had planned are not equipped to handle that large a crowd. So on those days we’ll just provide a list of restaurants you can pick ... and maybe team up with one or two other couples you’ve just met. Good way to really get to know them, when it’s more one-on-one! Also, by Thursday there will be LOTS of motorcycles landing in Red River for a massive Memorial Weekend Event that will “take over” the whole region. In years past it has been over 10,000 bikers! (It’s a fund raiser for a good cause, so these aren’t “Hell’s Angels” but just the “angel” type.) So the later it gets in the week, the better our chances of encountering heavy traffic on the roads.

This is short version of schedule. A more detailed one will be sent to those attending.

Schedule

May 20, Sunday – Arrival and set up. Let’s “get happy” starting about **4:30 pm**. Please bring finger food to share, and we’ll call it dinner too.

May 21, Monday – **Pack picnic lunch. 9:00 am** departure for **Emerald Circle day trip** (84 mile loop). Stop at all scenic turnouts along the way, as we traverse the valley north, first stop at **Vietnam Memorial**, through **Eagle Nest, Red River**, east to **Questa and Arroyo Grande. 5:00 pm** – **“God and Country” Potluck** – bring your favorite good old American food. Apple pie & ice cream provided.

May 22, Tuesday – **8:30 am** we’ll head for **Taos** area. First a visit to the **Rio Grande Gorge Bridge** and **Earthship Biotecture** World Headquarters. Then do lunch in Taos or on out to Taos Ski Valley. Afternoon, many options in and around Taos will be offered. That evening, short Happy Hour at Feltner’s.

May 23, Wednesday – **Pack picnic lunch. Leave at 9:00 am** for drive to **Cimarron**, through **Cimarron Canyon State Park** along the river, with scenic stops along the way. Look for ghosts at St James Hotel in Cimarron and then drive on out to **Philmont Scout Ranch** and tour museum & villa. **Evening on your own.**

May 24, Thursday – **Pack picnic lunch again, and we'll leave at 9:00 am** for a scenic drive south through the mountains on a rural route through sleepy little villages to the **Victory Alpaca Ranch** for critter petting and shopping, through **Mora**, to the historic **Cleveland Mill**. Reverse the route to return.

Evening **happy hour starting around 4 pm** and going until? (Midnight, anyone? HA!) “Clean out the frig” night – bring leftovers from the week or finger foods or whatever. (Can even order pizza delivery?)

May 25, Friday – Departure day ... until the Next Rally! Travel safe and stay healthy! And have a blessed Memorial Weekend. (Or continue with Feltners and Phillips as they bum around southern CO.)

Report on LAST RALLY ...



April 1-6, 2018 Rally Patagonia State Park, Patagonia AZ

Rallymasters Sandy & Steve
Varley,
Co-host Beverly & Bill Eckel

Sunday, April 1st

The Cuatros began to gather at Patagonia State Park, a little jewel tucked away in a remote

corner of southeastern Arizona, about 15 miles from Nogales. Easter Sunday, and had we known that it was the busiest weekend of the whole year in the park, we might have planned differently. Families, kids, dogs, everywhere, with each campsite hosting large extended families and each playing a different selection of music from mariachi to country western to classic 60's rock 'n roll. The **Varleys** rolled in to find **David & Susie Pickthorn** in the middle of the campground loop, where they had been trying fruitlessly to back their rig into the too-small and badly-angled space that had been assigned to them. The Varley's site was of more generous proportions, so we switched, and disaster was thus narrowly averted. Later in the day, **Bill and Bev Eckel** and **Bob and Sandy Catalana** showed up, and we sipped adult beverages and ate snacks while planning for the next day. Surprisingly, all the music and campground died down at a reasonable hour, and we were all able to get a good night's sleep.

Monday, April 2nd

The Varleys had decided to go on the 8 a.m. **ranger-led bird walk along the lake**, and were surprised to see David Pickthorn, an avid birder but a non-avid early riser, and Bill Eckel at the trailhead. David got some good shots of birds, including a bridled titmouse, and Bill got some good shots of us. The



whole group had planned on having lunch at the **Velvet Elvis Pizza Co.**, but arrived in town to discover that it was closed on Mondays and Tuesday. Instead, we had a delicious lunch at a coffee shop/bakery in town. In the evening, brand-new Cuatros members **Todd (she) and Tim (he) Towell** pulled in with their spanking new coach, and joined us for Happy Hour. Todd is a retired veterinarian and Tim is a recently retired optical engineer whose last project was the big telescope that will launch into space in 2020.

Tuesday, April 3rd

Hiking day! The Pickthorns and the Catalanas opted to forgo hiking for **sightseeing and shopping in Patagonia and Nogales** (AZ not Mexico), but Varleys, Eckels, Towells, and their dogs headed off for a **hike up the birding trail and Sonoita Creek**. The trail followed the stream most of the way, and the dogs had a great time running in and out of the shallow water while we ate lunch streamside. Total distance: 3.5 miles. Dinner was at the **Wagon Wheel B** in Patagonia, which dates from the 1930's. We got back to camp to discover that **Ron**



and Betty Sue Lyells had arrived and set up their camp next to Todd and Tim. The Lyells are friends of Bob and Becky Coulter, and had been the Coulters' guests at a rally last summer. We said good-bye to Bob and Sandy Catalana, who had to head back to Scottsdale, only to turn right around and drive to San Diego for a family wedding over the weekend.

Wednesday, April 4th Adventure Day! Varley, Lyells, Pickthorns, and Eckels set off on a scenic



drive to **Parker Canyon Lake**, a pretty little lake even more remote than Patagonia Lake, where we watched fisher folk pull trout from the lake while we ate our picnic lunches. On the way back, we stopped at a brand-new brew pub where we indulged in adult beverages and yummy snacks, despite just having finished lunch. The pub was right next door to a field full of old propane tanks that had been turned into

fanciful sculptures, from giant fruits and veggies to an old-fashioned steam engine. Our photographer took lots of pictures. The Towells, who had foregone our adventure, had instead rented a pontoon boat, and spent the morning exploring Patagonia Lake, viewing eagles, osprey, herons and other birdlife.



Thursday, April 5th

We bid farewell to Todd and Tim, who said they liked us, they really liked us, and promised to join us soon for another rally. The four couples that were left headed off to town to the Velvet Elvis for lunch. Right after we'd ordered, Sandy's phone rang.

"Is this the Sandy Varley who has campsite 76 at Patagonia Lake State Park?"

Sandy: Yes.

"You were supposed to have checked out at noon, and the people are here who have it reserved now."

Sandy: There's some mistake. We have it reserved until the 5th."

"This IS the 5th."

Sandy: Oh. Um. . . .

After being assured there was another site available to move to, Sandy said they would hurry back ASAP. Five minutes later:

Bill Eckel: "Sandy, what's the phone number for the park? I think I may have done the same thing." Sure enough, his time too was up. Luckily, no one had reserved his site, so he was able to add a day with no trouble.

We ended the day with a **potluck picnic in a quiet cove on the lake**, where we watched the colors on the lake change as the sun went down.



Friday, April 6th

We gathered bright and early at the Varleys' site for build-your breakfast burritos and potluck breakfast items. The Lyells were staying on an extra day, but everyone else headed for home, happy to have made new friends and connected with old ones in a beautiful setting. See you on the road!

First Timers Primer & Reminder to the rest of us

Since we have so many new members who have never been to a rally, we thought we'd provide a few general basics about our rallies.

(1) If you have a "family" radio, please bring it; that's how we communicate while touring in our vehicles together. Main channel 10 sub channel 20. If you don't have, many of us carry extra. Please bring your badges... and WEAR THEM. With so many new members, that's the only way we can remember your names! 😊

(2) Unless specified otherwise, please bring your own 'mess kit' (plate, utensils, napkin, etc.) and drink to all gatherings – which usually take place outdoors at rallymasters rig. Bring folding chairs too (which you can leave set up for the duration of the rally if you wish). Bring a small table for yourselves if don't want to hold your plate in your lap. If you have a larger folding table to help us with place for snacks & potlucks, check with rallymaster to see if they need it.

(3) A few of our rally locations have a rec building or club house for our use. If so, most are set up with tables & chairs and so we will usually hold potlucks and perhaps even happy hours there.

(4) If allowed, "real" campfires may be on the evening schedule; bring firewood if you have. If not, some of us may set up propane "firepits" to gather around. We used to have guitar players and singers to add to the evening fun ... and always looking for anyone willing to do so again!

(5) On day exploration drives or jeep trails, make sure you have enough gas for the trip. And try to double up with others, sharing rides... just make sure you both want to do the same things and/or be gone as long. If someone invites you to ride with them for all the 4WD trips because you don't have 4WD, it is usually appropriate to offer to pay for part of the gas as a thank you. Or offer to fix & bring their lunch!

(6) Whether drives or hikes or whatever, remember to bring enough water! And always snacks, even if a lunch isn't requested. Many times that may turn into lunch, and there aren't any McDonald's along the way, and we don't want you going hungry. (The saying goes "If following Rae only a mile away, better pack a lunch... it might take all day!") Also suggest keep a jacket handy. In the high mountains where we hold so many summer rallies, it can turn cold & windy really quick.

(7) REMEMBER: Everything we offer at a rally is optional -- day trips, meals, hikes, and any other scheduled activities. **We hopefully attend a rally to SHARE adventures**, but if you'd rather spend the day reading a book, or going on a long hike by yourself or whatever, that's fine. We're a bunch of very independent

people, and it's perfectly acceptable if you want take a hike, or bike ride, or go kayaking instead of that day's scheduled drive... and if you want company doing it, you'll usually find someone else who'd rather do that too! (Notice the varieties people did at April rally.)

(8) Most importantly, come prepared to have an adventure, make new friends and see old friends ... expect to have a great time of Fun, Food & Fellowship!

JUNE RALLIES COMING UP

JUNE 6-10, 2018

CREEDE, CO -- REGION 1 RALLY

Mountain Views at Rivers Edge Resort

719-658-2710

Be sure and specify you are attending the FMCA Region 1 Rally. Discount rate \$32 (30 amp) or \$34 (50 amp) will apply for early arrivals as well. Rallymaster: Connie Jones, 719-499-9740, cliji@aol.com. Rally fee is \$30/person, which covers 3 breakfasts and two dinners. Send rally fee to Connie at 4510 Debonair Circle, Colorado Springs, CO 80917. **Reserve by May 6.** This is a Regional Rally; not a chapter rally.

However, Tom & Pat Krouse, cell 970-433-0531, tompatkrouse@bresnan.net, **will be our chapter coordinator for members attending. Please let them know if you plan to be there, so he can be in touch re possible chapter happy hours or adventures together.**

Since there seems to be no Region 1 activities schedule during the main part of the day, we can highly recommend taking the "**Bachelor Loop**" drive out of Creede (gravel but easy for any vehicle) through historic mining districts, along swift cascading water, and over scenic mountains & meadows. Or drive the stunning **Silver Thread Scenic Byway** (Hwy 149) over to Lake City for lunch, making sure to take in all the stops along the way (especially don't miss the side short road to North Clear Creek Falls, or any of the scenic pull outs for info and photos). A day can also be spent browsing Creede's quaint shops and enjoying their many hangouts for lunch. If you're into 4WD routes, the choices are endless.

JUNE 17-22, 2018

Divide, CO -- MUELLER STATE PARK, Conifer Ridge campground

Last we checked, there were no more sites available – We suggest try

Alternate choice: **Diamond Campground, Woodland Park** (about 10 miles away)

800-410-0377 – full hookups (some of our members are booked in there)

Rallymasters: Rae & Dub Phillips, raecyp65@gmail.com, 505-235-5992

In addition to camping fees (prepaid when you make reservations) there is a day use fee of \$7/day required (tow car included with camp fee if left attached to RV at entrance station); or annual pass for \$70. Those staying outside the park at Diamond Campground will be required to pay the \$7/day fee inside the park, but for some of our day trips we can meet you at entrance or in Woodland Park.

This rally will feature famous roads such as Phantom Canyon & Shelf Route, and the old train bed through historic Victor across mountains thru tunnels to Colorado Springs. We'll visit Royal Gorge, Florissant Fossil Beds, Cripple Creek and more. It's also the "mecca" for hiking trails with amazing views of Pikes Peak.

Tentative Schedule going out later this month in separate email.

REST OF 2018 CUATRO ESTADOS RALLY SCHEDULE

Updated Info!

Please pay attention to deadlines.

Please confirm w/rallymasters if attending

July 18-21 -- Gillette WY. FMCA Intl Convention, Cam-Plex. Reservation form and details in FMC Magazine, or online fmca.com. Chapter coordinator: **MJ Brenner**, rio355@aol.com. 505-771-0058. Contact her if going. Since most of those signed up to attend so far will be arriving at different times (as volunteers), we will NOT try to meet and go in together. So plan to contact MJ when you get set up, to tell her where you're parked (they assign you a locator spot), and find out where she is – so you can get together for happy hours.

July 24-31 – Dolores, CO. Dolores River RV Park, 970-882-7761, doloresrivercampground.com \$40/night; pay for 6, get 7th free. Be sure to specify you are with Cuatro Estados. **Reserve soon as this campground fills up fast in the summer!** We'll explore Hwy 145 area in the San Juan Mountains with many side trips (spectacular views, great jeep trails & hiking). Nice rec room for our use as well, on Dolores River. **Rallymaster: looks like Phillips are "stuck again" doing this one. Will someone please just step forward to help?**

Aug 20-26 –Granby, CO. Stillwater Campground on Lake Granby, Arapaho Natl Rec Area. 877-444-6777, recreation.gov. **Rallymasters: Rae & Dub Phillips**, raecyp65@gmail.com 505-235-5992. **Co-hosts: Jim & Joan Glasmann**, jim_glasmann@msn.com 303-870-2964. **Should have booked by now.** We'll explore the quiet back side of Rocky Mountain National Park! Wildlife, uncrowded hiking trails, spectacular scenery, great kayaking/boating lakes.

Sept 26-Oct 1 -- Chinle, AZ. Cottonwood Campground, Canyon de Chelly Natl Monument, no reservations, \$14 dry camping, run by Navajo Nation Parks & Rec. **Rallymaster needed.** Please offer to help! We're doing this one back-to-back with October rally! In addition to exploring the canyon itself – along the overlooks and guided trip down in the canyon --we'll also include historic Hubbell Trading Post and surrounding area.

Oct 1-7 – Bluff, UT. Cadillac Ranch RV Park, 800-538-6195, 435-672-2262. Full hookups, pull-through, \$30. **Rallymasters: Sandy & Steve Varley, 801-467-4535, sndyvarley@yahoo.com.** They only have 14 total sites. Suggest you reserve ASAP, as this is most popular time for this location. This is a great base for exploring many dramatic sites in the region, including Valley of the Gods and Monument Valley.

Nov 5-12 –Columbus, NM. Poncho Villa St Park, (south of Deming) 877-664-7787, or via reserveamerica.com. \$14, 30-amp elec. **Rallymaster needed. Reserve by Sept 5.** This is a great location to just kick back and relax, maybe go across the border to lunch at “The Pink Store,” day trip to City of Rocks and/or Rockhounds State Parks, or Hot Springs ... and sit around a campfire reflecting on what a great camping year we've had!

DIRECTORY CHANGES/CORRECTIONS:

Boedeker/Hobbs – email change to tazco@verizon.net

Lehman, Lynn – email correction to lynnrlehman57@gmail.com (there's an “r” between Lynn and Lehman)

MAY BIRTHDAYS

MAY ANNIVERSARIES

(Numbers listed in parenthesis is the date, not the age!) ☺

Lynn Lehman (31st)
Glenn Millar (4th)
Joe Soto (20th)

Genevieve & Charles Carson (1st)
Gail & Bill Downs (17th)
Jann & Barry Engleman (31st)
Nandy & Steve Fowls (19th)
Julia & Lynn Lehman (11th)
Rae & Dub Phillips (12th)



THIS MEMORIAL DAY ... REMEMBER TO HONOR THOSE WHO SERVED, INCLUDING THEIR FAMILIES WHO LOST LOVED ONES WHO DIED TO KEEP US “THE HOME OF FREE BECAUSE OF THE BRAVE!”