

1st Annual "Trail Along to Pismo"
Vintage Trailer Rally
May 16 – 18, 2008
Pismo Coast Village Resort
Pismo Beach, California

The 1st Annual "Trail Along to Pismo" Vintage Trailer Rally was posted on the internet in early June 2007. The wagonmasters (Mike Keenan, Cindy & Bob Ross, and Toni Miltenberger) originally reserved 100 sites. Sites were continually added due to vintage trailerites' requests . . . the resort responded with additional sites for a total of 160. Counting those who made individual reservations, 170 vintage trailers attended. Even better news is coming, we have reserved 200 sites for next year's rally May 15 – 17, 2009. Approximately 75% or more of the attendees added extra days before or after the rally. Many of us will be reserving sites for extra days in 2009.

Complimenting the wonderful range of vintage trailers, trailerites and beautiful weather, we awarded a Certificate of Excellence to the Pismo Resort staff. They were the greatest! It read:

Certificate of Excellence
Thank you to Pismo Coast Village Resort Staff
for outstanding hospitality, support & services
for the "Trail Along to Pismo" Vintage Trailer Rally
With sincere appreciation from the Vintage Trailer Community
Mike Keenan, Bob & Cindy Ross, Toni Miltenberger
May 18, 2008

Restrooms, general facilities, fire rings, and hookup stations were the cleanest of any campground most of us have ever encountered. We highly recommend Pismo Coast Village Resort to any camper from vintage to modern RV's. We love you, Pismo Coast village!

And now for the activities:

Packets of information which contained information on the Pismo area, a schedule of activities, writing pads and pens, static cling Pismo Rally '08 decals, a list of trailers and their sites, door prize tickets, and other handouts were distributed at check-in. Pre-ordered rally shirts were picked up nearby at Mike's trailer.

On Saturday morning, the Follstad Team provided us with a delicious breakfast of scrambled eggs, hash browns, bacon, orange slices, cinnamon toast and coffee. They were completely organized and efficiently served the long line of hungry trailerites. Thank you, Larrie, Lynn, and friends for your magnificent feast. During this time, door prizes donated by our vintage trailer attendees were distributed. Thank you to all who donated one or more of these prizes.

From 10:00 AM to 2:00 PM, an in house - open house, walkabout/visitation was enjoyed by all. Information, new ideas, and history lessons were shared and myths and legends embellished. Professional filming of the event by SkyRiver RV took place on Friday and Saturday. The person writing this review hastily snapped photos during the walkaround to post on this website (amateur as she is – she is vintage, too – so, if your trailer is mistakenly identified under your picture; or, your trailer is not identified, please email her your correction). Worse, if she got distracted and didn't get a picture of your beloved trailer, please email or snail mail her one, and she'll post it. She won't take it personally, but as an informative gesture on your part to make sure the identification of your vintage trailer is accurate.

Many folks enjoyed the beach, going to town, walking to and on the pier, fishing (or just wishing), visiting the local eateries, driving on the nearby Pismo Dunes, antiquing, eating at the resort restaurant, swimming in the pool, golfing on the nearby courses, miniature golfing, or playing ping pong on the patio.

“Trailer Trash” Happy Hour began at 5:30 PM and lasted for a little over two hours. Thank you to the volunteer team that helped set this up. I wandered aimlessly (brain had turned to mush at this point) while Traci, Kelly, Mike, Kay, Chuck, Sara, Michele, Mark & others set up the clubhouse. We were very pleased at the turnout for this and those who contributed finger foods (trailer trash folks don’t “do” hors d’oeuvres – too fancy of a word -- or really because it’s easier to spell “finger foods” and I have to look up the spelling of “hors d’oeuvres” every time I write it). A small glass (plastic) of wine seemed to help put my brain back in order – or the illusion of it. Bartenders Mark & Sara (soft drinks) were attentive and diligent in keeping the party rolling. More door prizes were drawn – a vintage trailer camp diorama made and donated by Anna & Lynn, a Spamboree Rally weekend donated by Jerry & Francis, and four 2 day stays at the Pismo Coast Village. Jeannie K., Lori & Norm, the Blumers and some of the setup crew diligently helped clean the clubhouse.

Lisa Archer launched her e-magazine on vintage trailers and events. She shared the news at the beginning of the evening’s program.

At about 8:15 PM, it got dark enough for Chris Hart’s presentation on the patio of 1930’s, ‘40’s & ‘50’s trailer cartoons and home-movie trailer films. They were the best we’ve seen. A large group came and truly appreciated all his hard work. A huge thank you to Chris for all his preparation and expertise involving his production. Bob & Cindy made popcorn; Toni swept the patio floor altho’ everyone tried to tell her the ducks would eat it before morning. She wanted to make sure we would be welcome back. By the way, we are . . .

Many of us stayed on through Monday morning, but Sunday afternoon Ross and Jeannie were out on their bicycles. Water was pouring (like Niagara Falls) out of their Avion trailer. One of the fellows turned off the water, but the H2O kept coming. Three lovely ladies (see the pictures in the photo gallery) got inside and began sweeping out the water and soaking up the water on the floor. When the guys tried to go inside to locate the problem, the gals made them step outside. They’d already located the problem.. When Ross & Jeanie came back, their response was w-a-y c-o-o-l – they wear the best smiles and attitude (wonder what they were really thinking). Members of the vintage trailer family really do look out for another; this is one piece of evidence supporting our “family/group ties”. Robert M. was also spotted helping others in distress on the way to the resort and assisting others with their departure.

We met in small groups and celebrated “Tumbleweed Sunday”. Don’t know what that means? Neither did I before Andrew explained it. Andrew, you’ll have to return next year and let the folks know what it means. Hint: How much food did you go home with that you didn’t use?

Vintage trailers and trailerites arrived from: northern California, southern California, Washington, Arizona, Colorado, Arizona, New Mexico, Texas, and Hawaii.

Vintage trailers included, but were not limited, to: Airstreams (1947 – 2006), Alaskan Camper ‘68, Aristocrats (’65 – ’70), Avion ‘69, Boles Aeros (’48 – ’57), Canned Hams (’56 – ’61), Cardinals (’57 – ’71), Cortez Motorhome, Corvette ‘57, Covered Wagon ‘37, Daltons (’56 – ’58), DeCamp ‘66, Deville ‘57, Fiber Stream ‘78, Field & Streams (’62 – ’71), Hanson Love Bugs (’52-’54), Hobo ‘58, Holiday House ‘60, Ideal ‘63, Jewel ‘56, Kamp Master ‘49, Kencraft ‘63, Kenskills (’48 – ’64), Kit Teardrops (’46 – ’01), Little Caesars (’52 – ’53), Masterbilt ‘48, Maxitear, Mobile Sportsman ‘50, Monitor ‘72, Pacemaker Tri-Level ‘56, Pierce Arrow ‘37,

Pleasure Craft '53, Prototype '47, Rainbows ('54 – '56), Roadking '53, Roadmaster '52, Rod & Reel '54, Royal Coach '37, Scotsman '58, Serro Scotty '60, Shastas ('56 – '68), Silver Streaks ('49 – '75), Snoozebox , Spartans ('51 – '56), Spartanettes ('50 – '51), Spartan Manor '46, Stanley '58, Streamlines ('59 – '68) Teardrops ('45 – '06), Terry Rambler '48, Thunderbolt '64, Traveleer '42, Vagabonds ('49 – '50), VW Westfalia '85, Westcrafts ('47 – '50), and Westwood Tahoes '47. Such an interesting and eclectic array of vintage trailers – all in one place!!! A hearty thank you to all the participants and their trailers. You made this rally an astounding success!!!

Number of vintage trailer sites/participant sites: 170 (double+ that for an actual head count).

Some extracted comments from participants from the mail and emails (identifying names and terms were omitted to protect both the innocent and the guilty):

“Thanks for hosting a great event this past weekend. We saw trailers I never knew were out there. We look forward to next year . . .”

“ . . . Just wanted to let you know we had a great time at the Rally. The spot you gave us was fantastic. We met a lot of very nice people, and really enjoyed the trailers . . . Thank you for all the hard work you put into this great get together.”

“Don't forget to let us know if you have another get together. We will be there.”

“Everything went smoothly on our end and we are very appreciative of all the work you did.”

“Just a quick note to say thanks for putting on such a great rally . . . we felt very welcome . . . and you guys did a superb job. We can't wait to join you next year . . .”

“----- and I loved the Pismo trailer rally! Thanks to you, Mike, Cindy and Bob for all your great efforts. I don't know if you have a sign-up list started yet for next year, but put us on it. Hope to see you before then.”

“We just wanted to thank you for putting on a wonderful event this weekend . . . We are so looking forward to next year and plan to stay at least an extra 2 to 3 days . . . enjoyed being so close to the beach and having a pool nearby as well . . . had a great time talking and meeting different trailer owners.”

Thank you, Mike, Cindy & Bob – and all you wonderful trailerites . . .

Happy trailering! See you next year in 2009 at Pismo . . . or before at another rally.

Toni