

SeeYa Connection #17

SeeYa Connection

Newsletter for our FMCA Chapter

#17 - September 2007

Jim Huber, editor

1104 Hampton Rd

Washington, IL 61571-1254

317BKP@insightbb.com

Alfa SeeYa Officers

President - John Bohn - (Phone 513-310-1735) JFBohn@roadrunner.com

Vice President - Dave Kiesig - trainmaster1@hotmail.com

Secretary - Karen Hugo - KHugo@aol.com

Treasurer - Belle Bohn - bjbohn@roadrunner.com

National Director - Tony Monson - djnsnow@aol.com

Alt Nat'l Director - Bill Harju - WaHarju@pacbell.net

Address US Mail to:

AlfaSeeYas Chapter

3590 Round Bottom Rd

Cincinnati, OH 45244-3026

Other Volunteers

Membership Coordinator - Hannah Dubuc - hmdubuc@yahoo.com

Historian - Open

Rally Coordinator - Open

PRESIDENT'S MESSAGE

We hope you have had a pleasurable summer travel season. Belle and I have been touring the northwest since mid June and have had a great time. In August we were wagonmasters for the FMCA Convention Pre-Rally held in Prineville, OR. The pre-rally was a lot of fun; you can read about the activities elsewhere in this newsletter. We caravanned into the FMCA Convention and were joined by two other coaches in our camping area, and many other AlfaSeeYas attended our daily happy hours as well. We conducted a formal meeting at the Convention, and you will find minutes of that meeting in the newsletter. At that meeting Gene Huebner stepped up to the plate and was elected to serve Dave Kiesig's remaining term on the nominating committee (Dave, now our vice-president, cannot wear both hats)! Thank you Gene!

Several of us were successful in getting various repairs and services completed while at the convention, participated in line and square dancing, attended several shows, and it can be said, "A good time was had by all!"

One thing has always impressed me about this organization is the amount of fellowship and support exhibited by its members. Recently one of our members passed away suddenly. His wife/co-pilot was stranded near Nashville, a long way from home and support. Since her husband had done most of the mechanical things with their coach she was in need of help in just keeping things going so she could survive the situation, the

humid heat, etc. I sent emails to members in Tennessee, and two of them were near enough to go to her aid and give assistance. Thank you, Reggie and Doris Edwards and the other couple (whose names I sadly don't have) for being such wonderful, supportive members of the AlfaSeeYas! Our member in need wrote, *"I want to Thank You so much for all your help in getting me thru all this with my husband passing. It is very true to say that Alfa people are family and I am proud to say that I am in this family. I have had so many emails and phone calls it is wonderful I do not feel alone any more."*

Fellow members, your help is needed in another way. As we approach the coming year, and upcoming rallies and conventions, I again ask for your assistance in being a wagonmaster for a pre or post rally related to one of the major FMCA events in your region. As you will read in this newsletter, a pre-rally is planned for the January at the Indio, California Western Rally. We need functions planned to coordinate with the:

- Southeast Area Rally in Brooksville, FL Feb 6-10, 2008
- International Convention in Pomona, CA Feb. 25-28, 2008
- Northwest Area Rally in Albany, OR June 4-7, 2008
- International Convention in St. Paul, MN July 14-17, 2008

If you live near or are familiar with any of these areas, we would certainly appreciate your help in planning a rally. Your Vice President, Dave Kiesig, and I will be happy to provide assistance throughout the process. Please email or call either of us.

Editor's Note: You can contact them at:

President - John Bohn - (Phone 513-310-1735) JFBohn@roadrunner.com

Vice President - Dave Kiesig - (Phone 253-732-9127) trainmaster1@hotmail.com

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MEETING MINUTES - AlfaSeeYas Chapter of FMCA - August 15, 2007 - Redmond, Oregon

A business meeting of the AlfaSeeYas was held during the FMCA Convention at Redmond, OR with a quorum of 15 coaches present. The meeting of the AlfaSeeYas Chapter of the FMCA was called to order by President John Bohn at 4:30 P.M. John welcomed and thanked attendees and introduced new members George and Starr Saam and they each addressed the group.

John introduced the officers in attendance: John Bohn, President; Belle J. Bohn, Treasurer; and Dave Kiesig, Vice President. He announced that since the secretary was not in attendance, Belle would take the required notes of the meeting.

Tony Monson, FMCA Governing Board AlfaSeeYas National Director presented a copy of a National Director Report of the Governing Board meeting and spoke on the main points. At 118,000, FMCA is down members and every effort is being made to encourage new coach owners to sign up. Support of current members in this regard was requested. He reported that 57 actions were taken and asked if any AlfaSeeYas would be willing to be rally volunteers. There was a show of hands. Tony also reported on the INTO Gathering, at which there was a quorum and briefly mentioned the business conducted. Finally, Tony pointed out the upcoming FMCA events as listed in this newsletter.

Minutes of the November 10, 2006 AlfaSeeYas Meeting were handed out and read by attending members. A motion was made, seconded and passed to approve said minutes. Belle presented a written Treasurer's Report and opened the floor for discussion.

Questions were raised about the expenses involved publishing the newsletter, and it was suggested that efforts be made to reduce mailing costs by posting the newsletter on line and/or e-mailing as many copies as possible. John pointed out this was being done, but many emailed newsletters get returned due to the frequency of changed addresses. A motion was made, seconded and the Treasurer's Report was approved as presented.

Dave Kiesig announced a replacement on the AlfaSeeYas Nominating Committee was needed since, as Vice President, his position on the Committee is vacant. Gene Huebner volunteered and was duly nominated and elected to fill Dave's remaining term.

The meeting was adjourned at 5:00 P.M.

Respectfully submitted, Belle J. Bohn, Treasurer and Acting Secretary

PHISHING SCAMS: DON'T TAKE THE BAIT

What is "phishing?" It's a scam where crooks pose as legitimate business people by most often using the telephone or email to make contact with you. Their purpose is to trick you into revealing private information that can put you at risk of fraud. You don't need to be an expert to protect yourself. Follow these tips.

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- * Never follow links in an unsolicited email.
- * Never respond to emails that are urgent, ask for personal information, or promise something too good to be true.
- * Never reveal information to validate or protect your accounts. Legitimate businesses will not ask for personal information this way.
- * Always treat all unsolicited emails or phone calls as a potential scam.
- * Always be on guard and use your own instincts and common sense.
- * Always contact your bank, credit card company, credit union, etc. using the phone numbers they have provided.

Remember you are the best defense against fraud!

Example: Most of us take summons for jury duty seriously, but enough people skip out on their civic duty, that a new and ominous kind of scam has surfaced. The caller claims to be a jury coordinator. If you protest that you never received a summons for jury duty, the scammer asks you for your Social Security number and date of birth so he or she can verify the information and cancel the arrest warrant. Give out any of this information and bingo; your identity has just been stolen. If in doubt ask for a phone number so you can return the call. Then check that phone number.

Identity theft victims should contact the 3 major credit reporting agencies and the Federal Trade Commission.

Equifax 1-800-525-6285

Experian 1-888-397-3742

Trans Union 1-800-680-7289

Federal Trade Commission (FTC) 1-877-382-4357

Something to think about...Do you have a copy of your important documents stored in a safe place - such as the phone numbers mentioned above, your passport number, driver's license number and credit card numbers. It is a good idea to photocopy these and keep the photocopy in a secure location.

ON THE ROAD AGAIN...

THINK SAFETY AT ATMs

Alfa owners bought their RV for traveling. Many of them use ATMs to obtain needed cash! Use these safety tips to help protect yourself and your account when using an ATM.

- * Memorize your Personal Identification Number (PIN). Do not write your PIN on your card or keep it in your wallet or purse. Do not reveal your pin to anyone!

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- *Have your card ready - in hand - before you approach the machine. Choose well-lit ATMs, park close to the machine, and have another person accompany you at night.
- *Be aware of suspicious activity - trust your instincts. If you feel uncomfortable, immediately cancel your transaction and leave.
- * Don't agree to cash or deposit checks (or envelopes) for someone else - especially someone you do not know.
- * Shield the keyboard and display so others cannot see your transaction.
- * Pocket your money immediately and be sure to take your receipt. Verify your transaction privately, as soon as you can, and destroy any ATM receipts after comparing them to your monthly statement.
- *Keep your car doors locked and leave the engine running when using the drive-up ATM. Be sure all windows, except your own, are closed.
- *Never open a locked door for anyone you don't know. If using a machine in a facility that requires your card for access.
- *Report any crimes immediately to the police, credit card company and to the ATM owner.
- *Make sure you have the phone numbers of all your credit card companies stored in a location you can easily access - if your card is lost or stolen.

HEALTH INFORMATION

NEW CPR Rules: Push Hard, Push Fast In a past issue of the "SeeYa Connection" we urged members to be trained or re-trained in CPR. A recent issue of Newsweek prompted me to research the subject. Let me suggest you review the guidelines at <http://www.webmd.com> .

In brief the American Heart Association says the new rule of thumb for CPR is "push hard, push fast." They have updated their guidelines which can DOUBLE a person's chances of surviving sudden cardiac arrest. The key change is more chest compressions for every two rescue breaths.

Since some people are unwilling to give mouth-to-mouth resuscitation some physicians are urging forceful compressions about 100 per minute. Please - check out WebMD - visit your local Heart Association - **BE PREPARED!** It may be your spouse, children, grandchildren or friend who will need your help.

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MEDEX As an AlfaSeeYas' member, you are required to be a member of FMCA. There are some important benefits provided through FMCA we sometimes forget. One is a ***free membership in Medex***. Here are some basic facts from the FMCA website regarding Medex benefits:

Members receive this coverage with no sign-up required. Travel can be for business or pleasure at a distance of 100 or more miles from your primary residence. Coverage is provided while traveling within the United States, Canada, or Mexico, 24 hours a day, seven days a week, 365 days a year. MEDEX must approve and coordinate all services. MEDEX provides members with toll-free access to travel assistance services and also coordinates and pays the approved costs associated with the following:

1. Emergency medical air and ground evacuation
2. Repatriation of remains
3. Return home of unattended grandchildren and dependent children
4. RV and automobile return home
5. Transportation to join a hospitalized member (for member traveling alone — if member is hospitalized for seven days or more)
6. Transportation home after initial evacuation

Each of these services has no limit to the cost that will be paid by MEDEX with the exception of the fifth one — family member visit transportation for the member traveling alone — which has a limit of \$1,000.

All of us should carry their handy card in our purse/wallet just as we carry insurance cards, Medicare cards, etc. You owe it to yourself to be familiar with their services, before you need them. For more information check your FMC magazine or go to:

http://www.fmca.com/membership/benefits/full_family/medex.asp

To print your own Medex Card, go to:

<http://www.fmca.com/membership/pwd/forms/medexcard.pdf> (you will be asked to log into the FMCA site, but directions are there if you haven't done so before).

The 24/7 Medex Emergency number is: 800-527-0218

STROKE!!!! I am not sure about you but I have received a number of emails listing helpful pointers for recognizing the possibility of someone having a stroke. And with our members 'on-the-road' I thought it would be appropriate to list some of the tips here. Before listing them I reviewed several medical web sites. Here is part of the text from the email version.

"Sometimes symptoms of a stroke are difficult to identify. Unfortunately, the lack of awareness (could) spells disaster. The stroke victim may suffer severe brain damage when people nearby fail to recognize the symptoms of a stroke. Now doctors say a bystander can recognize as stroke by asking three simple questions.

(S) Ask the individual to smile.

(T) Ask the person to TALK --to SPEAK A SIMPLE SENTENCE (Coherently) (for example, It is sunny out today.)

(R) Ask him or her to RAISE BOTH ARMS.

NOTE: Another 'sign' of a stroke is this: Ask the person to 'stick' out their tongue. If the tongue is 'crooked', if it goes to one side or the other that is also an indication of a stroke. If he or she has trouble with any of these tasks, call 911 immediately!! And describe the symptoms to the dispatcher.

From the National Institute of Neurological Disorders and Stroke.... Symptoms of a stroke can vary depending on the type of stroke that has occurred. The general major signs of a stroke - all of which appear suddenly:

- * Numbness or weakness of the face, arms or legs.
- * Confusion
- * Trouble speaking or understanding language.
- * Trouble seeing out of both eyes.
- * Difficulty walking.
- * Loss of balance and coordination
- * Severe headache without known cause.

HAVE SOME HEALTH RELATED QUESTIONS? Here is a list of web sites of interest.

www.cancer.gov (National Cancer Institute)

www.familydoctor.org (American Academy of Family Physicians)

www.mayoclinic.com (The Mayo Clinic)

www.4women.gov (women's health)

www.labelsonline.org (information about specific lab tests)

www.mlanet.org/resources/userguide.html#6 (lists of reliable diabetes and heart disease websites)

www.mlanet.org/resources.medspeak (online medical dictionary)

www.WebMD.com

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WEB SITES

Did you know HTTPS offers more security? The secure hypertext transfer protocol (HTTPS) is a communications protocol designed to transfer encrypted information between computers over the World Wide Web. HTTPS is [http](#) using a Secure Socket Layer (SSL). A secure socket layer is an encryption protocol invoked on a Web server that uses HTTPS.

Most implementations of the HTTPS protocol involve online purchasing or the exchange of private information. Accessing a secure server often requires some sort of registration, login, or purchase.

The successful use of the HTTPS protocol requires a secure server to handle the request. If you want to check for the "s" in https - go to the address bar at the top left of your screen.

I want to let you all know of another RV-related Yahoo Group that may interest you. (I announced this group here about 5 - 6 months ago, but I want new members here to know about it.) **Overnight Parking!** John Bohn thought this would be of interest to our members. A group called OvernightRVParking is located at: <http://autos.groups.yahoo.com/group/OvernightRVParking/>

The purpose of the group is to provide a place for RVers to post factual reports on places they have found where RVers are allowed to park overnight on the way to a distant destination, either at no charge or at minimal cost. This would include places such as Wal-Mart, Flying J, Cracker Barrel and similar businesses who welcome RVers, as well as some city, county and other parks that have either free or inexpensive RV spaces. We also include a few commercial RV Parks close to major metropolitan areas where free overnighting spots are often hard to find. The listing we're compiling also includes places where RVers might expect to be able to park overnight, but aren't permitted to, such as Wal-Marts in cities with Anti-RV Parking laws. I formed this Group and began compiling the listing in late January of this year. As of this morning, the Yahoo Group has over 2,100 members, and our listing includes over 2,800 parking and "no parking" locations in the USA and Canada. I hope that this new group and its purpose will be of interest to you, and that you'll want to subscribe and report on places you've been able to park overnight in your RV at low cost or for free. You may subscribe to the OvernightRVParking Group by going to the web page shown above, or by sending a blank email to: OvernightRVParking-subscribe@yahoogroups.com

Thanks and best regards, Jim O'Briant Gilroy, CA Moderator, OvernightRVParking Group

Looking for a location? Try maps.live.com

WiFi Sites - if you are looking for a location to use WiFi go to www.jiwire.com.

SeeYa Web Site is www.alfaseeyas.com Created by Tony Monson it features information all members will find useful such as: About us, Officers, Latest Issue of the SeeYa Connection Newsletter, Links to other sites, Photo Album, Chapter Documents, Rally Information, Tricks, Tips and Maintenance and a Rally Application form. We suggest you add this site to your favorites list.

New Members!!!! Do you have questions about your coach? Need advice?

Many of our new members have received answers to their questions on a web site owned by RV Consulting designed and used exclusively by Alfa RV Owners. The site is for sharing of information regarding Alfa Leisure RV products. Owners benefit from information shared and have the ability to ask for advice when they encounter problems. If you are interested in joining this group....

- Go to www.groups.yahoo.com
- Enter AlfaSeeYa in the search box
- Enroll in the group
- Choose either daily messages or daily digest to read messages off-line.

Computer Virus? Want to check out an email re: possible virus go to www.Snopes.com then type in virus in search box.

Freightliner Chassis Yahoo Group - you can participate in the Freightliner Yahoo site, go to:

<http://groups.yahoo.com/group/FCOC> .

Freightliner Oasis Dealers - go to: www.freightlinerchassisownersclub.org and click on Links to find the nearest Oasis Dealer - (trained to repair RV's).

ICE Campaign - "In Case of Emergency" We all carry our mobile phones with names and numbers stored in its memory but nobody, other than ourselves, knows which of these numbers belong to our closest family or friends. If we were to be involved in an accident or were taken ill, the people attending us would have our mobile phone but wouldn't know who to call. Yes, there are many numbers stored but which one is the contact person in case of an emergency? Hence the "ICE" (In Case of Emergency) campaign. The concept of "ICE" is catching on quickly. It is a method of contact during emergency situations. As cell phones are carried by the majority of the population, all you need to do is store the number of a contact person or persons who should be contacted during emergency under the name "ICE" (In Case Of Emergency).

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The idea was thought up by a paramedic who found that when he went to the scenes of accidents, there were always mobile phones with patients, but they didn't know which number to call. He therefore thought that it would be a good idea if there was a nationally recognized name for this purpose. In an emergency situation, Emergency Service personnel and hospital Staff would be able to quickly contact the right person by simply dialing the number you have stored as "ICE." For more than one contact name simply enter ICE1, ICE2 and ICE3 etc. A great idea that will make a difference! Let's spread the concept of ICE by storing an ICE number in our Mobile phones today! (Our thanks to Tom Ingalls)

CHAPTER INFORMATION

NATIONAL DIRECTOR'S REPORT 2007 Redmond, Oregon FMCA Convention Sharon and I drove from Western Washington to the convention site expecting to take our time and complete the trip in two days. Instead, we made very good time and pulled into Redmond around 6:00 PM on the 9th. We thought of going out to Prineville and finding the other Alfas and staying one night but figured it was too late to just show up. We arrived at the governing board parking area a day early on Thursday Friday Aug. 9th. On Friday we drove to the Pre-Rally in Prineville, OR and enjoyed a nice visit with other Alfa owners and was persuaded to join some of them on the fabled Mystery Dinner Train. We met them at the depot, had a very enjoyable dinner and tried to help solve the mystery murder that unfolded during the ride. Lots of laughs. AlfaSeeYas can, and do, have fun.

I attended the candidates forum on Sunday and re-attended the National Director's training seminar. Bill Harju, Alternate National Director, was with me at both events. Monday morning at 7:30 I checked in at the Governing Board meeting and picked up the voting credentials for our chapter. Bill also attended the meeting to "learn the ropes" should he take my place in the event I cannot attend a meeting.

The meeting went as expected lasting a little longer than we thought because of some "Actions" taken at the Executive Board and Board of Directors meetings. Of the 57 "Actions" taken by the executive board and Board of Directors meetings, 11 items were "pulled" for further discussion and/or action.

There was lengthy discussion concerning dropping the convention "Pin" given each attendee at the convention, the governing board members pin and a pin given to the volunteers. After numerous motions and actions, it was voted to continue giving out the pins. Another issue was the dinner for the volunteers instead of a \$10 proposed certificate. The volunteer's dinner will continue.

The budget was passed after 40 minutes of discussion as were five Policy and Procedures changes. Most were housekeeping changes.

The last part of the meeting was the election of the New National Officers. The Governing Board elected as President: Connie Pool, as Senior VP: Nelson Stubbs, as Secretary: Joanne Durbin, and as

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Treasurer: Doug Key. These officers will serve a two year term.

The meeting adjourned at 6:20 PM.

Some interesting items: It was announced there are 508 FMCA chapters and 118,000 members. The quorum for the meeting was met by having 402 chapters represented. During the International (INTO) Area Gathering on Wednesday the Board of Delegates, of which I am a member, acted on 13 proposals. Most on housekeeping, on INTO By-Laws, and Standing Rules. All passed.

There were 59 board of delegates present. Which made a quorum.

The Treasurer's audit was approved for the International Area (INTO) with \$47,751 in the bank. This will be used for the upcoming INTO Rally at Oshkosh, WI.

Notes of interest: there is going to be a reduction in the prizes issued to each chapter for use in chapter meetings. There is now an option for new chapters The traditional coffee pot or a 2 x 7.5 foot banner with the chapter name.

There is concern for those FMCA members having a Montana LLC (limited liability corporation) registration. It has something to do with having logo's or advertising on the vehicle, including the tow vehicle. This result could be a 'ticket' by different states and or requirement of additional taxes. Keep tabs on the FMCA web site and magazines "legislative affairs" section.

Jay Blumenthal presented awards for anniversaries of chapters and also the newsletter competition winners.

Future FMCA Events:

Jan, 9-13, 2008 Western Area Rally, Indio, CA

Feb 6-10, 2008 Southeast Area Rally, Brooksville, FL

Feb 25-28, 2008 FMCA 79th Convention, Pomona, CA

May 22-26, 2008 G.L.A.S.S. Rally, Berrien Springs, MI

June 4-7, 2008 Northwest Area Rally, Albany, OR

June 5-8, 2008 Eastern Area Rally, Richmond, VA

June 12-15, 2008 INTO area Rally, Oshkosh, WI (prior to the Summer FMCA convention in MN)

July 14-17, 2008 FMCA 80th Convention, St. Paul, MN

Aug 7-10, 2008 Northeast Area Rally, Essex Junction, VT

Sep 24-29, 2008 South Central Area Rally, North Little Rock, AR

Oct 15-18, 2008 Rocky Mountain Ramble, Farmington, NM

Respectfully Yours, National Director DJ "Tony" & Sharon Monson

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Address Change We need your help! When you change your home mailing address, email address, phone numbers, etc. ---- please send a note to Khugo@aol.com informing her of the change. It will make it easier for us to communicate with you. We maintain one mailing address for a member. If you change locations (winter/summer) - or change your email address - you must send a change of address to Karen Hugo our secretary. Email notification is preferred.

Please send corrections to Khugo@aol.com or to the AlfaSeeYa Cincinnati address on page 1.

Annual Dues - Annual dues are \$10 - you can determine when your dues are payable by **checking the mailing label on this newsletter for the expiration date of your dues!** For those who receive an email copy- of the newsletter please contact Hannah Dubuc for your expiration date. Her email address is on Page 1. **Multiple years are encouraged. For renewals,** send your check to:

Treasurer

AlfaSeeYas Chapter

3590 Round Bottom Rd

Cincinnati, OH 45244-3026

AlfaSeeYas Name Badges - A badge with a pin back is \$6.50 (shipping costs \$1.25 for two badges), and with a magnetic back at \$8.50 (shipping costs 50 cents for two badges), Please include name(s), coach number and FMCA number. Make your check payable to Two Crazy Ladies, 154 Rainbow Dr #5452 Livingston, TX 77399-0141

See Ya Decal for your coach? Most of our long standing members received decals for their coach. The large decal is once again available. The large decal is placed on the front of the coach under the driver's windshield wiper. If you did not receive a decal for your coach send a note to me and I will mail one to you! Note: The decal for your toad is no longer available. Jim Huber 1104 Hampton Rd Washington, IL 61571-1254 email address is: 317BKP @insightbb.com

Articles for the See Ya Connection Members are encouraged to share experiences, tricks of the trade, maintenance tips etc with other members. Please consider writing your thoughts and sending them to the editor.

Hats, Jackets, etc. - members wishing to order jackets, hats, etc. with the AlfaSeeYa logo should refer to our web site <<http://www.alfaseeyas.com>>.

SeeYa Web Site - Did you know we have our own web site? Created by Tony Monson it features information all members will find useful such as: About us, Officers, Latest Issue of the SeeYa Connection Newsletter, Links to other sites, Photo Album, Chapter Documents, Rally Information, Tricks, Tips and Maintenance and a Rally Application form. We suggest you add this site to your favorite list - it is www.alfaseeyas.com

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New Members!!!! Do you have questions about your coach? Need advice?

Many of our new members have received answers to their questions on a web site owned by RV Consulting but designed and used exclusively by Alfa RV Owners. The site is for sharing of information regarding Alfa Leisure RV products. Owners benefit from information shared and have the ability to ask for advice when they encounter problems. If you are interested in joining this group....

- Go to www.groups.yahoo.com
- Enter AlfaSeeYa in the search box
- Enroll in the group
- Choose either daily messages or daily digest to read messages off-line.

Freightliner Chassis Yahoo Group - you can participate in the Freightliner Yahoo site, go to:

<http://groups.yahoo.com/group/FCOC> .

Freightliner Oasis Dealers - go to: www.freightlinerchassisownersclub.org and click on Links to find the nearest Oasis Dealer - (trained to repair RV's).

TIPS, TRICKS AND MAINTENANCE

ADDITIVES FOR LOW SULFUR DIESEL FUEL?????

Lately I have been reading a lot about the need to use a diesel fuel additive because of the low sulfur diesel fuel. The editor decided the best answers are the ones we get from the manufacturers.

Cummins Engines - reply from their Customer Assistance Center in Columbus, Indiana. Hello James, you can tell the owners of the motor homes they, like all other Cummins engines owners **DO NOT** need to add any kind of lubricity additive to their engines on the basis that the fuel is Ultra Low Sulfur Diesel. There are many rumors circulating about the effects of sulfur being in diesel fuel or sulfur being taken out of diesel fuel. Diesel fuel without sulfur is just as good, in all respects except one, when compared with today's fuels with sulfur. The only negative effect of taking sulfur out of fuel is the fuel becomes more expensive, somewhat negating the inherent cost advantage of running diesel engines when compared to other fuels. It has to be removed using specialized equipment and chemical processes that add to the expense of producing the fuel.

We have seen a very few instances where the reduced aromatic content of the fuel has resulted in slight leaks from fuel systems. This is not expected to be an issue with many engines. Lubricity is the fuel quality that prevents or minimizes wear in diesel fuel injection equipment. Diesel lubricity is largely provided by trace levels of naturally occurring compounds in the fuel that form a protective

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layer on metal surfaces.

In order to meet the Ultra-Low Sulfur Diesel (ULSD) specifications, refineries now utilize processes that not only reduce the sulfur content of diesel blend components, but also remove compounds that provide lubricity. This has led to some concern that ULSD fuel might result in lubricity problems for fuel injection equipment. Should you be concerned about the fuel lubricity for your Cummins Turbo Diesel engine? **The answer is no.** Customer Assistance Center Cummins, Inc. Columbus, Indiana, USA

Caterpillar Answer: Thanks you for your inquiry. Caterpillar recommends **no fuel additive** for your Cat Diesel engine. The only time you would need to be concerned would be if you were planning to store your RV for 3 months or more. I would then recommend the fuel tanks be topped off and a fuel stabilizer be added to control moisture and microbial growth. Best Regards Pat Simon Truck Engine Technical Communicator Altorfer Inc East Peoria, IL

Overheating Problems? Louis Bruna asked us to share this with other SeeYa owners. We had an overheating problem on our last trip to Oregon. We were climbing a 5-6% grade of about four miles at a outside temperature of 80-85 degree range when the engine hit the hot mark on the gauge. The computer readout said it was 222 degrees and then the check engine light came on. I pulled over and stopped with the engine in idle until it cooled down. The temperature gauge climbed again with every short grade, but ran in the normal range when the road was level. My mind was working overtime trying to figure out what was wrong.

After we arrived at our stop for the day I called the Caterpillar factory and talked with one of the techs. I gave him the information on our SeeYa and related the details of the overheating. He said is was probably due to a dirty radiator, not the inside, but the outside! He said with the rear radiators there is a problem with oil vapors picked up by the fan and being blown into the radiator which acts as an adhesive for dust and dirt. He said the problem is quite common and there is a cheap fix. He said to find a car wash that would accommodate a large motor home and wash off the radiator from the rear. First soap it up to cut the grease and then to rinse it well until the water running off was clean and soap free. If an soap is left it to will act as an adhesive for dirt. Be careful to keep the high pressure wand about a foot away as not to bend the delicate radiator fins. The next morning I spent \$2.00 and did as suggested and it worked!!! We continued on with our trip climbing steeper and longer grades with the temperature staying in the low to mid normal range.

He also said this should be regular maintenance, done every six months. I know I will do it as it is a cheap, easy and a fast procedure.

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From the Info Share session held at the Redmond Pre-Rally in Prineville, OR And from the FMCA Conventions sessions in Redmond. Get the yellow

out! Exterior Plastic that yellows with age, such as the water tank vents, may be spray painted with Krylon Fusion paint to make them look the same as the exterior of the coach. Krylon Fusion paint is available from Wal-Mart and other sources. (This particular paint is designed for plastics.) Krylon's ads say, "No sanding, no priming, no fuss"! **Batteries** I used "water-miser brand" battery caps on my batteries to help reduce water evaporation based on info from an FMCA Rally session about 18 months ago (about \$80 for 6 batteries). The tops of the opened caps rest higher than normal, soooooo..... I was consistently over-filling my batteries using the filler can provided with the coach. Result: consistent big mess. After discussions with many battery people, including Interstate who makes the batteries I have, I know now that the battery cells DO NOT need to be filled until the water level reaches the plastic sleeve extending down into the cell (the one with the two slots in it). The final water level should be 1/8 to 0 inch below that sleeve. Just make sure the plates are never exposed. I have since installed one of those battery filler systems that fills all the batteries at once using a squeeze bulb (one system for batteries on each side of the generator) because I am tired of craning my neck trying to see down into those battery cells in the far back, etc. Interstate battery guy advised: "Trust that system, just don't try to keep filling once there is resistance in the squeeze bulb!" **Caulking ... A Cheap Solution!** Ron and Carol Davis showed me this cleaner they use on the caulking of the beltline around the coach. I tried it! Awesome! Really works. Product is called "Awesome" and can be purchased at Dollar Tree, the Dollar Store, or 99 cent stores. Caution: It contains bleach so be careful with it. **Paint the caulk?** I'm reading on the Yahoo group website (<http://autos.groups.yahoo.com/group/seeypad/>) that Krylon Fusion paint can also be used to cover/protect caulking at the beltline, thereby reducing the need for cleaning it. Getting ready to replace my caulking so I'll try it and report in the next newsletter. **Changing your own engine air filter (Cat C-7)** You can purchase replacement filters at cost (\$50) directly from Freightliner at any of the Rallies or Conventions where they have their parts truck. Changing out the filter is somewhat of a job, as, at least on my 05 SeeYa, I had to remove the entire filter mount to get it out. Removing the rubber connector on the back end was also tedious. Installing the new filter is fairly easy, especially if you use some alcohol (rubbing alcohol works just fine) when putting the rear rubber connection piece back on the filter canister assembly. Tip: Use an air hose to blow away accumulated road dust on both ends of the filter canister before removing.

Is your dryer working correctly? If you notice the vent louvers for your washer/dryer are not operating during the drying cycle check the hose connection from dryer to the vent. (Thanks to David Dawson)

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Holding tanks/hot water tank cleaned and sanitized - From Terry O'Neill -

Hello there all you campers!!!! I wanted to share a new concept with you. Owen and I recently had the Alfa's holding tanks/hot water tank cleaned and sanitized. Our hot water heater had a lot of sediment, and now the hot water is even hotter. But, the really great tip we got from the Water-Flow tech was, the recipe for the holding tanks and I wanted to share it with you. In a 1 gallon bottle add: 16 oz Pinesol or Lysol - 1 cup Calgon bath oil beads then fill bottle with water

The treatment for the black water tank is 8 oz to 5 gallons of water in the tank

The gray water tank gets 4 oz to 5 gallons of water in the tank

We treat the gray water whenever we treat the black water.

Tennis Balls in the dryer! Some folks have had success putting several tennis balls in the dryer to reduce wrinkles.

Alfa Owner's Club 2008 Annual National Rally

Date: **April 16 – 23, 2008 NATIONAL RALLY** Campground: **Lake Conroe KOA in Montgomery, TX**) with the Lone Stars as rally hosts. The Roadrunner pre-rally will be April 11-15th. . The rally will be held at what was formerly known as Haven's Landing - now North Conroe KOA . Members must know that there ***are only 200 sites available***, and since it is in Texas, it is expected that a lot more coaches from the east, especially from Florida, will be attending. There were 230 coaches at the Mesa rally, so if one procrastinates, he/she may not be able to get in!

Future National Outings: 2008 Lone Stars Chapter (Texas & Louisiana)

2009 Sunchasers Chapter (Northeast U.S.)

2010 Mavericks Chapter (Mid-California)

2011 South Loafers Chapter (Southern California/Arizona) 2012 Sun Seekers Chapter (Washington/Northern Oregon) 2013 Sunrisers Chapter (South East) 2014 Road Runners Chapter (full-timers)

SEEYA PRE-RALLY REPORT - REDMOND, OR. The AlfaSeeYas Pre-Rally for the Redmond FMCA Convention was held at Sun Rocks RV Resort in Prineville from August 9 through August 11. Fourteen coaches attended, including Dave & Carole Kiesig, Tim & Rhonda Dean, Joe & Barbara Felker, Denny & Sue Gosser, Pete & Roseanne Halpin, Gene & Joyce Huebner, Bob & Glenda Mitchell (& grandson David), Don Moore & Jenny Loving, Doug & Mary Perkinson, Don & Patty Rowe, Ernie & Donita Sanchez, Dayne and Linda Sharek, John & Leisa Seigel and John & Belle Bohn. We were joined by Bernie & Kendra Kuehn and Tony & Sharon Monson for the catered welcoming dinner the first night.

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The following morning we had a 3-hour coach info sharing session where lots of good information changed hands. (There are notes regarding this elsewhere in the newsletter.) That afternoon we had a coach walk. These are always enlightening, as many people have made significant modifications to their coaches to make them more habitable.

Perhaps the highest of highlights of the rally was the Murder Mystery Dinner Train event, attended by ten of us. The train travels from Redmond to Prineville and back. During the three hours, a murder mystery is presented by the waiters and waitresses who are all dressed in character, and they maintain their characterizations when serving, etc. between "acts"! Their improvisational interactions with our group kept us laughing the whole time. Congratulations to Don Rowe for successfully solving the murder mystery.

The following day was a free day, concluded with a Pot Luck Dinner, Door Prizes and Games. Jay Blumenthal (our FMCA International Area President) and his wife Donna joined us for dinner, and Jay gave us a brief update on election and voting issues to be conducted at the FMCA Convention. Ernie and Donita Sanchez were encouraged to buy lots of lottery tickets after winning many of the door prizes! What great luck!

The next morning 12 coaches caravanned into the FMCA Convention and were met and escorted by the three Redmond police cars/trucks to facilitate getting to the fairgrounds without being stalled at intersections, etc. Quite a treat! Made the trip delightfully easy!

September 6 to 12, 2007 - Central Illinois Rally The joint rally of SeeYas and Sunchasers/Sunrisers began in Mackinaw, IL on Sept 6th with eight units participating (Terry & Dee Brand, Norm & Nancy Coady, Don Gilleran/Clara Bondie, Jim & Kris Huber, Mike & Karolyn Lippert, Dave & Judie Moore, Paul & Kathy Raleigh, and Terry & Charlotte Stephens. Activities included a tour of Caterpillar's Distribution Center in Morton, IL, the Pekin, IL Marigold Festival, coach walk, dinner at a local restaurant, Red Hat Luncheon, potluck breakfast and the Kentuckiana Opry. On Sunday Sept 9th eight units caravanned to Chatham, Illinois just South of Springfield where we were joined by an additional SeeYa (Christian & Carolyn Eck). Activities here included tours of the Lincoln Presidential Museum, other Lincoln and Springfield attractions, tour of Frank Lloyd Wright home, dinner and breakfast (it was a cold morning) at a local restaurants, potluck breakfast and dinners.

An Alaska Rally - sort of: Some of you have considered a trip to Alaska in your Alfa. Here is a summary by Karen Hugo her husband Richards Alaska Adventure this summer. She has agreed to answer any questions you have about their adventure. Her email address is on Page 1.

We've had people ask us about our Alaska trip and would we do it again. YES - in a heartbeat! We had a fabulous time! Was some of it hard? Sure - there were long days of just riding early in the trip. It is a VERY long way across Canada to get to Alaska - at least the way we went up. There was the adjustment to 30 amps or less vs 50 amps that we are used to here in the Lower 48. The conversion of

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liters to gallons and Canadian dollars to US was also an adjustment. Though by the time we left, it was almost \$ to \$ for US-Canadian currency.

Roads - There are horror stories about the Alaska Highway that we heard before we left. We found most of the highways to be pretty good. There were definitely some rough patches but you just slow down and take your time. What's the hurry? The worst was part of the Cassiar Highway to Dease Lake and a really bad patch of highway in Canada from Beaver Creek to Destruction Bay in the Yukon. The rest weren't so bad - you just watch for the frost heaves, some of which are marked but a lot are not! I think the stories about the Top of The World Highway are somewhat exaggerated - yes it is gravel/dirt/mud for about 90 miles, but you know that going in and you take it slow and plan on washing your coach and toad when you get to Tok, AK.

Fuel prices - Of course they were much higher in Canada, about \$4.00/gal for regular unleaded, but we paid \$4.75 in Dawson City, Yukon. We only paid \$2.79/gal in Fairbanks. The most we paid for diesel was \$4.12/gal in British Columbia and the cheapest was \$2.69/gal in Anchorage.

Campgrounds - There are lots of campgrounds. Some of them are very small - maybe 10 spots, some are pretty tight for a 40 ft motorhome; most have 30 amps but a lot are 15-20 amps. They were built for smaller vehicles. The ones that are beside lodges are run by generator power because there is no electric available otherwise. Sometimes that can be a little "iffy." A lot of the campgrounds don't have sewer but they have a dump station. Full hookups were not as readily available as we find in the Lower 48. We didn't see very many really very pretty campgrounds but there were a few - the Haines Hitch-Up RV Park in Haines, AK; the Shady Rest RV Park in Houston, BC were the ones that really stick out in my mind. The other thing we ran into - more dry camping in campgrounds that you pay for - a lot of them really pricey I thought! The worst was \$26/night for dry camping (no anything) in Jasper National Park in Canada. The one I didn't mind so much - \$12/night at Seward City Park, but the view made up for everything else. It was probably my favorite campground of the whole trip. I loved being able to see the glaciers across Resurrection Bay, the cruise ships come and go, the fishing boats as they headed out in the morning and back in the evening, the little sea otter than swam by several times and the eagle perched right outside our motorhome a couple of times. (Doesn't get any better than that!) Other than the dry camping aspect - we didn't find the campgrounds to be any more expensive, maybe even less expensive than in the States. Do you need reservations? No - we didn't make reservations very many places and it worked out OK. Sometimes we had to change our plans a little to make do but it worked out. We "flew by the seat of ur pants" and that gave us the flexibility to stop when and wherever we wanted. We were comfortable traveling that way.

Food - we found food to be more expensive everywhere, both groceries and eating out. Halibut and salmon is fresher but just as expensive as in the Lower 48. Most of the places we ate out were pretty good; our batting average for good dining out was about 95% so that is better than we do in the Lower 48!

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Scenery and Wildlife - WOW! What can you say about the scenery. It's beautiful and awesome! We loved seeing the wildlife just by the side of the road - bears, foxes, moose, eagles, etc. We didn't see as much as some others did but we saw lots! I would go back again just for the enjoyment of seeing the wildlife. One of the highlights was see Mt. McKinley (or Denali). We had 3 days when we had views of her from both the north and south sides. One day she was "OUT" all day and we were lucky to have the time to spend just sitting and looking. We took a cruise/land trip back in 1994 with Holland America. We realized then on the land portion of our trip how big Alaska is. What we saw back then was only a tip of the iceberg - it really is massive. Of course, you can never see all of it but we gave it a shot to see as much as we could. We drove lots of gravel roads (in the jeep) and went to as many areas as we could. We missed some but we saw a lot!

Our recommendation - GO! Take your RV if you have one and travel "The Last Frontier." You won't regret it. Take as much time as you have (or can afford) and enjoy it all. You can also rent RVs - we know because we saw thousands of them on the roads! We put over 8,500 miles on our Alfa and are still about 1,100 miles from our starting point in Oklahoma. We drove nearly that much in the Jeep (7,500 miles) just driving around taking in the sights.

We're already talking about our next trip to Alaska. I think we would go a little earlier in May and go up the west side of the Rockies versus the east side as we did this trip. There are some areas that we missed and would like to see. So, if the Good Lord is willing, we will make this journey again!

Also on the trip were Pat & Barb Pintus and Dan & Jenny Sheppard.

Rally Schedule

We hope you will read information on upcoming and attend AlfaSeeYa and FMCA rallies and conventions. We've listed them in your newsletter for your convenience.

As mentioned earlier, if you would like to suggest ***a local rally***, please contact our President John Bohn. A group of AlfaSeeYas can get together very easily for a few days during the week, or over a weekend.

Please check the scheduled rallies and add some of them to your schedule. **NOTE: THERE ARE A LIMITED NUMBER OF SITES AVAILABLE AT MOST EVENTS.** You can insure a spot by reserving now. Your early reservation FOR PRE & POST RALLIES saves you \$15 and lets the Wagon Master know if additional sites are needed.

Sometimes it is possible to accommodate more than the number originally planned.

Note: The cost of Alfa See Ya rallies is for two adults in one Alfa motor home.

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AlfaSeeYa

---Rally Schedule Descriptions---

ALFASEEYA FUTURE RALLYS

UNTIL FURTHER NOTICE SEND YOUR RALLY APPLICATIONS TO THE WAGON MASTER(S) LISTED IN THE RALLY DESCRIPTION OR RALLY APPLICATION

CALIFORNIA - JANUARY 2008 AlfaSeeYas Indio FMCA Pre-Rally, Palm Desert, CA Jan 5-8,

The next AlfaSeeYa Pre-Rally will be held Jan 5 to Jan 7, 2008 prior to the FMCA Western Area Rally at Riverside County Fair and National Date Festival in Indio, CA. The event will include a catered dinner, continental breakfast, steak BBQ dinner, pot luck seminars, card bingo, coach walk and more. Golf is available at the nearby Ivy Ranch for \$21 per person incl. cart. On Tuesday Jan 8th we will convoy to the FMCA Rally site in Indio, CA.

Important: We will be entering the FMCA Rally a day early intentionally to insure we have good parking "on the grass", which is quite near the activities, with electric available. There will be a one additional day FMCA parking fee of \$15, payable upon entry. If you opt for electricity, we believe it will be available the following day and paid for at the rally. **If you plan to attend the Indio Pre-Rally please complete the Rally Application in this newsletter and mail promptly.**

ARKANSAS 2008 - AlfaSeeYa Rally Plans are being made for an AlfaSeeYa Rally in the Batesville, area. Details will be provided in future newsletters.

AlfaSeeYa

---Rally Schedule---

Jan 5 to 7 AlfaSeeYas Pre-Rally at Emerald Desert Resort in Palm Desert, CA (Details in this newsletter)

TBD AlfaSeeYas Rally in Batesville, AR area (Details in future newsletters)

FMCA

---Rally Schedule---

For FMCA Rallies - Members should reserve General Parking for FMCA Rallies by calling FMCA reservations (1-800-543-3622) or using the FMCA web site <http://www.FMCA.com>.

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- Jan 9 to 13, 2008 Western Area Rally at Riverside County Fair and National Date Festival in Indio, CA
 - Feb 6 to 10, 2008 Southeast Area Rally at Hernando County Airport in Brooksville, FL
 - Feb 25 to 28, 2008 FMCA's International Convention at Fairplex in Pomona, CA
 - May 22-26, 2008 Great Lakes AREA Rally at Barrien County Youth Fair in Barrien Springs, MI
 - Jun 4 to 7, 2008 Northwest Area Rally at Linn County Fair and Expo Center at Albany, OR
 - Jun 5 to 8, 2008 Eastern Area Rally at Richmond Raceway Complex in Richmond, VA
 - Jun 12 to 15, 2008 Ninth Annual INTO rally at Sunnyview Expo in Oshkosh, WI
 - -July 14 to 17, 2008 FMCA 80th International Convention at Minnesota State Fair Grounds in St Paul, MN
-

Alfa Owner's Club Rallies - Alfa SeeYa Members, who are also members of the Alfa Owner's Club, should check the Alfa Leisure web (www.alfaleisure.com) site for local rally information. Click on owner's club then select Alfa 1, South Loafers, Wranglers, Lone Stars, Sunrisers, Mavericks, Road Runners, Sun Seekers or Sunchasers to learn of scheduled rallies. (See information on the National Rally in this newsletter)

New Members

NOTE: The listing of member's names, city & state, and e-mail addresses that would normally be listed at this point in the newsletter are not included on this web site. For information on Changes, Corrections and Welcome new members you will need to refer to the e-mailed or regular mailed copy of the newsletter.

Thank you, Tony Monson, Web administrator. djnosnow@aol.com

A Little Humor!!!

Just came across this exercise suggested for older adults, to build muscle strength in the arms and shoulders. It seems so easy, so I thought I'd pass it on to some of my friends. The article suggested doing it three days a week. Begin by standing on a comfortable surface, where you have plenty of room at each side. With a 5-lb potato sack in each hand, extend your arms straight out from your sides and hold them there as long as you can. Try to reach a full minute, and then relax. Each day, you'll find that you can hold this position for just a bit longer. After a couple of weeks, move up to 10-lb potato sacks. Then try 50-lb potato sacks and then eventually try to get to where you can lift a 100-lb potato sack in each hand and hold your arms straight for more than a full minute. (I'm at this level). After you feel confident at that level, put a potato in each of the sacks.

(Ron Jurgens)

Thought Provokers....

Birds of a feather flock together, and then crap on your RV.

There's always a lot to be thankful for if you take the time to look for it. For example, I am sitting here thinking how nice it is that wrinkles don't hurt!

A penny saved is a government oversight!

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The real art of conversation is not only to say the right thing in the right place, but also to leave unsaid the wrong thing at a tempting moment.

The older you get, the tougher it is to lose weight because by then your body and your fat are really good friends.

The easiest way to find something lost around the RV is to buy a replacement.

He who hesitates is probably right

If you think there is good in everybody, you haven't met everybody.

If you smile when things go wrong, you have someone in mind to blame

The sole purpose of a child's middle name is so they can tell when they really are in trouble. The mind is like a parachute; it works much better when it's open.

The only difference between a rut and a grave is the depth!

My doctor is really with it! If you tell him you want a second opinion, he will go out of the room and come in again.

My doctor told one of his patients they had six months to live. At the end of six months the patient had not paid his bill, so the doctor gave him another six months.

Humor for Lexophiles (Lovers of Words):

Police were called to a day care, where a three-year-old was resisting a rest. The roundest knight at King Arthur's round table was Sir Cumference. The butcher backed up into the meat grinder, and got a little behind in his work. To write with a broken pencil is pointless. When fish are in schools they sometimes take debate. A thief who stole a calendar.. got twelve months. A thief fell and broke his leg in wet cement. He became a hardened criminal. When the smog lifts in Los Angeles, U.C.L.A.

AlfaSeeYas Indio FMCA Pre-Rally, January 5-7, 2008

Emerald Desert RV Resort, Palm Desert, CA

Reservation Form

Member Name(s) _____

Address _____

City, State Zip Code _____

Cell Phone# _____ Home Phone # _____

e-mail address _____ Coach # _____

Rally Fees (per coach of two people) **\$180.00** *

_____ Additional people at \$32 per person (for meals) _____

Park Pet Fees @ \$1/day/pet (2 pets maximum) _____

TOTAL including all dinners, park fees, etc. \$ _____

Select your welcoming (catered) dinner choice(s):

Chicken Breast..... # _____

(Stuffed with artichoke, mushrooms, cheese and garlic w/ marinara sauce)

Pork Tenderloin..... # _____

(with apricot and pine-nut stuffing)

Make your check payable to **AlfaSeeYas** for the total amount above, and send your remittance with this form to:

Dave or Carole Kiesig

6824 19th Street W, PMB 198

University Place, WA 98466

Questions: Carole (253) 732 9127 or Dave (253) 732-9108 or trainmaster1@hotmail.com

* **Deadlines:** Total space at the park is limited. Reservation deadline to your wagon master is November 20, 2007. Absolute deadline is December 20, 2007 with a \$15 late fee (total per coach fee would be \$195)

Park information:

- If you arrive early or want to stay after the rally you may arrange for additional days with the RV park.

Emerald Desert RV Resort: (760) 345-4770

- No children under the age of 18 are allowed.

Guests are welcome to all functions, provided you contact the wagon master prior to the rally, to insure costs are met and food is available.

Cancellation Policy: There is a \$10.00 cancellation charge. If the rally has incurred non-refundable costs, these will be deducted from the refund unless there is a waiting list.

We agree that we shall not hold FMCA, the AlfaSeeYas Chapter, officers, employees, or agents responsible for any damage or injury of any kind which our guests or we may suffer during the rally. This agreement applies regardless of the cause of the damage or injury.

Signature _____

Date _____

Signature _____

Date _____