



# SeeYa Connection

Newsletter for our FMCA Chapter

VISIT OUR WEBSITE AT [www.AlfaSeeYas.com](http://www.AlfaSeeYas.com) SEPTEMBER 7<sup>TH</sup>, 2014 FALL ISSUE# 42

## President's Message

~ By Randy Scott ~ [rscott@antelecom.net](mailto:rscott@antelecom.net)

Hello again to all our members - we certainly hope you have had (or are continuing to have), a great summer of 2014! By the time you read this, Terry and I will have returned from our latest trip in our Alfa - primarily to attend the FMCA 90<sup>th</sup> Family Reunion & Motorhome Showcase in Redmond, Oregon - with some side trips both before and after. Prior to getting to Redmond, one of our stops was in Portland, OR - where we met up with Mary Jo Versic - one of our friends from the South Loafers Chapter of the Alfa owners. While we had traveled through Portland before, we had never stopped and stayed to visit the city. We had a great time - especially with Mary Jo's help as "tour guide." Great things to see, and great food to eat (including the variety from hundreds of food trucks)! It's certainly a city that we would recommend to all of you, stop and visit when you have the opportunity.

We next went to McMinnville, OR - where we had scheduled an AlfaSeeYas chapter rally, after which we had planned to caravan to the Redmond FMCA Rally. However, we had only three RVs sign up to attend our McMinnville Rally - the Zimmermans' (as wagon masters), ourselves (as co-wagon masters) and one

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other couple. So, unfortunately, we had to cancel another chapter rally, for lack of participation. However, Terry and I decided that we would go to McMinnville anyway, as we still wanted to see the things we had planned during the chapter rally - such as the Evergreen Aviation Air and Space Museum. Terry and I had a great time - there are a lot of things to do and see in and around McMinnville (especially lots of wineries and places to eat!) - McMinnville is another destination we would highly recommend. By the way, the Evergreen Aviation Museum is a great one, and even though the Evergreen Aviation company

declared bankruptcy late in 2013, it apparently has not impacted the museum. In addition to two huge museum buildings full of aircraft and space items, there are many more aircraft parked outside, plus an IMAX theater in a separate building, and a water park in another building (with a Boeing 747 on top of it!). The RV park we stayed in (that we had planned to use for the chapter rally) was really nice, and had a walkway to the museum.

At the FMCA Rally in Redmond, I was our chapter's representative to the annual Governing Board meeting (neither our chapter National nor Alternate National Director were able to attend this one). This was my first FMCA Governing Board meeting, and while it took most of the day to complete (partly due to the "usual compliment" of some folks just seeming to want to talk), there was a lot of useful information provided and work done. FMCA is on a good financial footing now (both the current and the proposed 2015 budgets are "in the black"), with a number of new members having joined - although current members are also leaving - probably primarily due to many getting older and no longer RVing. The FMCA committee formed to attract members under the age of 60 is also working on ideas for attracting new members. One of the primary actions taken was the reinstatement of FMCAssist as a free benefit of regular FMCA membership. This was due to the now greatly improved financial condition of FMCA (plus the considerable hard negotiations that resulted in the overall cost to FMCA of the

\$300K to cover all of the 70,000+ FMCA members - something on the order of \$4+ per person). It was costing \$105 per year for two people. By the way, to those of you who may have signed up for the extra-cost FMCAssist program and may have some time left on your policy, it was recommended you contact the Seven Corners company and ask them if you can get some form of credit or refund for the unused portion of your policy. Another item noted at the meeting was (as has been reported in the FMCA magazine) that due to declining use, the need for upgrading and the desire to provide enhanced options - FMCA has decided to no longer provide a mail forwarding service, but to partner with DakotaPost for mail forwarding service, effective October 1<sup>st</sup>, 2014 (I believe at the same initial cost as FMCA was charging). Hopefully all of you who use this service have been notified. Note also that this affects our chapter dues payment address - after October 1<sup>st</sup>, dues should be sent directly to our chapter treasurer - details are shown on page 6. Also at the Rally, the newly elected Area officers were introduced, including David Kessler - the new VP for the INTO Area (this is the International Area that our chapter is in - along with the many other FMCA Chapters that are not geographically related). The minutes of the entire Governing Board meeting will be posted on the FMCA web site in the near future. I also encourage all of our chapter members to attend FMCA rallies (as well as any of the 10 Area rallies

throughout the country too!) as they are a lot of fun, have a lot of informative seminars (for example, this one included seminars covering diesel engines and Freightliner chassis - which all our Alfas' have), and a wealth of entertainment.

Coming up soon for our chapter will be elections of chapter officers for the next two-year period, starting in January 2015. We have volunteers to run for some positions, but need more - PLEASE! Just let me know - by email or phone is fine. This is a great opportunity to lead our chapter into the future! We have almost 400 members - even if we lose some due to leaving Alfa motorhome ownership, we also continue to gain new members who are purchasing Alfas' from others - they continue to be a very popular brand. We will be sending out ballots in the next several months, and hope to have a full slate of officers for the upcoming election - which we will finalize at our annual chapter business meeting in January 2015.

"Speaking" of January 2015 - that is when we will have our annual Chapter outing in Palm Desert, CA (at the Emerald Desert RV Park) January 2<sup>nd</sup> - 6<sup>th</sup>, 2015 - after which we will caravan to the nearby FMCA Western Area Rally in Indio, CA (to be held January 7<sup>th</sup> - 11<sup>th</sup>, 2015). Our wagon masters will be the Zimmermans' and the Pearsons' - thank you in advance to both couples! Further info and the registration form will be forthcoming in the near future. Don't forget the need to sign up for the Western Area Rally separately (and include signing up for

electricity if you would like to park with us at the Rally). Actually, in addition to the rest of this year, the first several months of 2015, you will have a number of opportunities for RVing: in addition to our Chapter Rally and the FMCA Western Area Rally in January, there are activities going on in Quartzsite, AZ the latter part of January, the Good Sam Rally in Phoenix, AZ and the FMCA Rally in Pomona, CA in March, and the Annual Alfa Owners Club Rally in Casa Grande, AZ and the INTO Area Rally in Shreveport, LA in April. Hopefully, we will see you at one or more of these activities!

Have safe travels, and please don't forget to contact me ASAP if you would like to run for a chapter office!

~~ Randy

American Airlines saved \$40,000 in 1987 by eliminating one (1) olive



in first-class.

from each salad served

We have two ears and one mouth.

Think twice, speak once !!

### Editor's Note

By Jean Maddux

[jeansalfanews@gmail.com](mailto:jeansalfanews@gmail.com)

Sure hope everyone had a "Great" Summer !! So sorry for the people in the Mid-West and East Coast who have suffered with such awful weather for the last year. Our prayers go out to you.

The weather is abnormal everywhere. Even here in Oregon, it has been a lot hotter than normal and we haven't had as much rain as we need.

The plans are in the works for the 2015 "Annual Alfa Owners Club Rally" (AOC). We have a lot of exciting things for you to look forward to. Remember to take some pictures of your Alfa in interesting places so people can guess where it is - there will be a contest!

Ladies, if you ever wanted to drive the Alfa but are too intimidated, now is your chance to learn. The RV Driving School will be at the Rally and give two seminars and a limited number of lessons (for a discounted price). I was scared and white knuckled when I would try to drive the Alfa. It was soooo BIG !! I took my driving lessons with Dan Sheppard, (he is an Alfa owner & a "Roadrunner". He also works for the RV Driving School). Now, I feel so confident driving the Alfa. Jerry was a little worried that he wouldn't get to drive anymore, now that I could do it. I assured him that I still like to be what Shirley York calls "Motorhome Fluff" !! The lessons are well worth the money and you get a "diploma" (certificate), afterwards so you can get a discount on your insurance.

Most, if not all of us Alfa owners "Love" our Alfas'. And many of the Alfas' are 10 years old or older. Many of us have upgraded the interiors or painted the outside, but what about the internal hidden parts that we don't think about? Alfateers will have a seminar about what needs to be checked and replaced if necessary.

That is just two of the exciting seminars that are planned. There is so much more. If you have never been to the AOC, you really should check it out. I am sure you will have fun. Read the article from Bob and Anita Gordon (newbies) on page 15.

And don't forget about the Entertainment Night. As always it should be really good. Just \$35 per person for dinner and show !!!

So now that Fall is approaching fast, it is time to start planning for our next adventure. Where will we (all of you) go next? Tell me about it !!

I am still *waiting* for someone, anyone, to PLEASE, PLEASE send me something to write about. I know ALL of you have stories to tell. The rest of us want to hear about them. Also, I would like inputs from members on products you have found that helped in our Alfas', things you have used and liked. Come on guys & gals !!!

"Happy Trails"

~~ Jean

Look at life through the windshield,  
not the rear view mirror.



A warm welcome to our newest AlfaSeeYas members. To paraphrase, Sonny Gillespie, past president of our FMCA association, the International Area Organization (aka INTO): **"The most important member of the AlfaSeeYas is the newest member" !!**  
Thanks so much for joining us !!

Chuck & Karen Day  
Alan Heilpern  
Ron & Linda Odom  
Terry & Shelia Russell  
Neil Van Dyk & Nancy Patterson Van Dyk

## AlfaSeeYas Officers & Other Volunteers

President	Randy Scott	<a href="mailto:rscott@antelecom.net">rscott@antelecom.net</a>
Vice President	Mike Stinson	<a href="mailto:mstinson2@msn.com">mstinson2@msn.com</a>
Secretary	Terry Scott	<a href="mailto:rscott@antelecom.net">rscott@antelecom.net</a>
Treasurer	Kathleen Stinson	<a href="mailto:mstinson2@msn.com">mstinson2@msn.com</a>
National Director	Mike Lynch	<a href="mailto:lorrynellynch@gmail.com">lorrynellynch@gmail.com</a>
Alt. National Director	Larry York	<a href="mailto:lyork5635@gmail.com">lyork5635@gmail.com</a>
Newsletter Editor	Jean Maddux	<a href="mailto:jeansalfanews@gmail.com">jeansalfanews@gmail.com</a>
Website Administrator	Tony Monson	<a href="mailto:djnosnow@aol.com">djnosnow@aol.com</a>
The AlfaSeeYas Chapter Website is at:		<a href="http://www.alfaseeyas.com">www.alfaseeyas.com</a>

Send U.S. Mail, dues to Treasurer at:  
(Checks payable to AlfaSeeYas)

**(AFTER Oct 1<sup>st</sup>)**

1325 W. Harrison Ave.  
Cottage Grove, OR 97424

**AlfaSeeYas Treasurer**

3590 Round Bottom Road **(UNTIL Oct. 1<sup>st</sup>)**  
Cincinnati, OH 45244-3026

**Membership is \$10 per year. Multiple year renewals are encouraged at \$10 per year.**

## Alfa Repair Facilities

Dick Albritton, Choudrandt, LA (318) 278-1677, email [dickalbritton@gmail.com](mailto:dickalbritton@gmail.com)

Alfateers, Fontana, CA (909) 428-6775, website <http://www.alfateersrvservice.com>

Follow Alfateers on Twitter & Like us on Facebook

Blue Sky Mobile RV Repair (RVDA Certified Master Technician) Tucson, AZ (502) 668-4038

Website [blueskyrv@gmail.com](mailto:blueskyrv@gmail.com)

Bretz RV, Missoula, MT (406) 541-4800 website [www.bretzrv.com](http://www.bretzrv.com)

California RV Specialists, Lodi, CA (209) 334-4500 website [www.californiarvspecialists.com](http://www.californiarvspecialists.com)

Charlie's Service, Sunset, UT (801) 547-7630 website <http://www.charliesservice.com>

Like us on Facebook

Mike Ewing, Robertsdale, AL (south of Loxley) (251) 508-3102 email [ewingrvrepair@gmail.com](mailto:ewingrvrepair@gmail.com)

## Useful Internet Sites for Alfa Owners

Our Chapter Website AlfaSeeYas.com: [www.alfaseeyas.com](http://www.alfaseeyas.com)

You'll find lots of great information, including Rally info, Chapter documents, membership and dues information, past issues of the Newsletter, Tips and Tricks, a photo album and much more.

Family Motor Coach Association: [www.fmca.com](http://www.fmca.com)

**Yahoo Message Boards** - these are Internet forums where Alfa owners ask question and exchange information about our coaches. To read the messages, and post your own, you will need to "join" the group (click the blue button that says Join This Group).

AlfaSeeYas: <http://autos.groups.yahoo.com/group/alfaseeya/>

SeeYa DP: <http://autos.groups.yahoo.com/group/SeeYaDP/>

SeeYa Travels: <http://autos.groups.yahoo.com/group/SeeYaTravels/>

**Chapters of Alfa Owners:**

[Alfa One](#) - Southern California

[Lonestars](#) - Texas

[Mavericks](#) - Central California

[Roadrunners](#) - Non-Regional (Full Time/Half Time/Part Time)

[South Loafers](#) - Southern California, Arizona, & Nevada

[Sun Risers](#) - Eastern United States

[Sun Seekers](#) - North of Eugene, Oregon & Washington

Rallies ~~ the most FUN you can have in your Alfa ~~~~

If you would like to suggest a local rally, please contact our President, Randy Scott. A group of AlfaSeeYas can get together very easily for a few days during the week, or over a weekend. **NEED HELP PLANNING A RALLY?** We have several documents to help those interested in planning a pre, post or other rally for our members. You can contact Randy and ask for any or all of the documents. They include: Rules of Thumb for Estimating Costs and Planning a Pre or Post Rally in Brief.

## Upcoming FMCA Rallies

For FMCA Rallies - Members can sign up for FMCA Rallies by calling FMCA reservations (800) 543-3622 or using the FMCA web site: [www.FMCA.com](http://www.FMCA.com)

September 24<sup>th</sup> to 28<sup>th</sup>, 2014 - Eastern Area Rally  
Western North Carolina Agricultural Center, Asheville, North Carolina

October 1<sup>st</sup> to 5<sup>th</sup>, 2014 - South Central Area Rally  
State Fair of Louisiana, Shreveport, Louisiana

January 7<sup>th</sup> to 11<sup>th</sup>, 2015 - Western Area Rally  
Riverside County Fair & National Date Festival, Indio, California  
(Please sign up for electricity if you want to park with the Alfas')

February 11<sup>th</sup> to 14<sup>th</sup>, 2015 - Southeast Area Rally  
Sarasota County Fairgrounds, Sarasota, Florida

March 26<sup>th</sup> to 29<sup>th</sup>, 2015 - FMCA'S 91<sup>ST</sup> Family Reunion & Motorhome Showcase  
Fairplex, Pomona, California

April 26<sup>th</sup> to 30<sup>th</sup>, 2015 - INTO Area Rally  
State Fair of Louisiana, Shreveport, Louisiana

**RALLY CALENDAR ~~ UPCOMING ALFA CHAPTER RALLIES****ALFA SEE YAS PRE-RALLY OUTING**

Dates: January 2<sup>nd</sup> - 6<sup>th</sup>, 2015

Location: Emerald Desert RV Park, Palm Desert, CA

Wagon Masters: Ray & Lori Zimmerman and Ron & Linda Pearson

We will caravan to the FMCA Western Area Rally January 7<sup>th</sup> - 11<sup>th</sup>, 2015, in Indio, CA  
More information & registration coming soon.

**SUN SEEKERS CHAPTER OUTINGS**

Contact Mel Kirkland at [Mel\\_Kirkland@msn.com](mailto:Mel_Kirkland@msn.com) OR call (360) 666-1621 (360)-991-7436 for information and a registration packet on all outings.

**NOVEMBER OUTING**

Dates: November 14<sup>th</sup> - 17<sup>th</sup>, 2014

Location: Washington Land Yacht Harbor, Olympia, WA

Wagon Masters: Larry & Shirley Shilley, Bob & Patty Shilley

**APRIL PRE-RALLY TO THE ANNUAL ALFA OWNERS NATIONAL RALLY****APRIL ANNUAL ALFA OWNERS CLUB NATIONAL RALLY**

Dates: April 11<sup>th</sup> - 17<sup>th</sup>, 2015

Location: Palm Creek Golf and RV Resort, Casa Grande, AZ

Wagon Masters: Tom & Maureen Mathison, and Assistants: Jerry & Jean Maddux

Wayne & Kathy Taubman, Marvin & Marian Greer

**ROADRUNNERS CHAPTER OUTINGS****SEPTEMBER OUTING (Time is running out, please call ASAP)**

Dates: September 23<sup>rd</sup> to 28<sup>th</sup>, 2014

Location: Garden of The Gods RV Resort, Colorado Springs, Colorado

Wagon Masters: Jim & Becky Godfrey (719) 310-2095 or Becky (719) 210-3666

**JANUARY OUTING**

Dates: January 17<sup>th</sup> to 25<sup>th</sup>, 2015

Location: Quartzsite Big RV Show, Quartzsite, AZ

Wagon Masters: **Wagon Masters Needed**

**ROADRUNNERS CHAPTER OUTINGS (CONTINUED)**

**APRIL PRE-RALLY TO THE ANNUAL ALFA OWNERS NATIONAL RALLY**

Dates: April 7<sup>th</sup> to 11<sup>th</sup>, 2015

Location: Palm Creek Golf and RV Resort, Casa Grande, AZ (Details to be determined)

**APRIL ANNUAL ALFA OWNERS CLUB NATIONAL RALLY**

Dates: April 11<sup>th</sup> to April 17<sup>th</sup>

Location: Palm Creek Golf and RV Resort, Casa Grande, AZ

Wagon Masters: Tom & Maureen Mathison, and Assistants: Jerry & Jean Maddux

Wayne & Kathy Taubman, Marvin & Marian Greer

**SOUTH LOAFERS CHAPTER OUTINGS**

**OCTOBER OUTING**

Dates: October 28<sup>th</sup> thru November 1<sup>st</sup>, 2014

Location: Far Horizons 49er Village RV Resort, Plymouth, California

Wagon Masters: David & Judy Sabol and Jim & Vonnie Beard

**JANUARY OUTING**

Dates: January 20<sup>th</sup> - 25<sup>th</sup>, 2015

Location: Black Rock RV Village, Brenda, AZ

Wagon Masters: Don & Jan Wallace and Frank & Jane Davies

**APRIL PRE-RALLY TO THE ANNUAL ALFA OWNERS NATIONAL RALLY**

Dates: April 7<sup>th</sup> - 11<sup>th</sup>, 2015

Location: Palm Creek Golf & RV Resort, Casa Grande, AZ

Wagon Masters: Larry & Shirley York and Ron & Linda Pearson

**ANNUAL ALFA OWNERS CLUB NATIONAL RALLY**

Dates: April 11<sup>th</sup> - 17<sup>th</sup>, 2015

Location: Palm Creek Golf & RV Resort, Casa Grande, AZ

Wagon Masters: Tom & Maureen Mathison, and Assistants: Jerry & Jean Maddux

Wayne & Kathy Taubman, Marvin & Marian Greer

# GOOD SAM RALLY

Many Alfa Owners Went In 2012 - Great Time !!!



EXHIBITS GALORE!



VETERAN'S SALUTE  
SPONSORED BY COAST TO COAST



HALO'S "BEST IN SHOW"  
RALLY DOG SHOW!  
Sponsored by GS Pet Insurance



HUGE RV DISPLAY!



RENEW YOUR VOWS!  
Help Us Break The World Record!



# JOIN US IN PHOENIX!

## MARCH 19 - 22, 2015

AT THE PHOENIX INTERNATIONAL RACEWAY

### DON'T MISS OUT!

- Hundreds of Motorized & Towable RVs in all shapes and sizes on display!
- Shop for the Latest RV Accessories! Over 300 indoor booths!
- More than 20 Informative Seminars Each Day!
- Unforgettable Entertainment!
- Test Drive an RV on the Track!
- Thousands of the Friendliest RVers in the World... Good Sam Club Members!

BACK BY POPULAR DEMAND:

**SUPER DIAMOND**

A NEIL DIAMOND TRIBUTE BAND!

**& TICKET TO RIDE**

A BEATLES TRIBUTE BAND!



**THE RALLY GOLF TOURNAMENT IS BACK!**

TRES RIOS GOLF COURSE

Thursday, March 19 at 8:30 a.m.

Contests Include:

Straightest Drive • Closest to Pin • Longest Putt



### REGISTER TODAY!

Registration includes:

- 4 Days of Camping!
- 4 Days of Festivities!
- Evening Entertainment!

\*Fee is for RV with 2 people. Early bird days & electric are available at an additional cost.



Visit Us: [TheRally.com](http://TheRally.com)

Call Us: 800.701.1399

### Alfa Owners Breakfast, Mesa AZ

**WANTED:** Alfa Owners in the Mesa, Gilbert, Chandler, Queen Creek, Apache Junction (East Valley Area) that would be interested in having breakfast or lunch together. Through emails we can decide on a good restaurant & when.

Call: John 612-965-5762 **OR** Myrna 612-987-5811 **OR**

Email: [jfillipczak@grantsburgtelcom.net](mailto:jfillipczak@grantsburgtelcom.net)

~~John & Myrna Filipczak

### Alfa Owners' Breakfast in Yuma Foothills, AZ

Every second Monday of the month from November thru April, Alfa owners in the Yuma area meet for breakfast. All Alfa owners are welcome to attend. The next get-together of the season is Monday November 10<sup>th</sup>, 2014 at 8:30 am at:

**Mi Fajita Restaurant, 11375 Foothills Blvd., Yuma, AZ**

~~Dan & Jenny Sheppard

### ALFA FOR SALE

2002 See Ya, '38 69,000 miles  
Runs Great, No Issues  
\$55,000

Call Jim Godfrey @ (719) 310-2095 **OR** Becky Godfrey @ (719) 210-3666

Good Sam has a "New & Exclusive" GPS. It is *powered* by Rand McNally. We have the exact same GPS (not the new one), only ours is the Rand McNally brand (same layout, different name). It has lots of information on it, and can be switched from RV to car. It asks you the size of your RV and other information so it won't take you on roads you shouldn't go. It takes a little while to get the hang of it at first, like "wording" (when you are searching for something). Anyway, we like ours a lot.

Venus is the only planet that rotates clockwise. Since Venus is normally associated with women, what does that tell you?

That women are going in the 'right' direction...?

## Northern Exposure - An Alaskan Caravan

**Date: June 14<sup>th</sup> thru September 3<sup>rd</sup>, 2015 (81 Days)**

Wagon Masters: John & Fran Kurz 267-918-2710 [Redrooster120@gmail.com](mailto:Redrooster120@gmail.com)

Assistant Wagon Masters: Phil & Nita Taylor 501-250-6585 [philnita.taylor@gmail.com](mailto:philnita.taylor@gmail.com)

Cost Estimates: \$7100 for 2 people per rig/\$5300 for one person per rig.

Please join us for an extended tour of Alaska and Western Canada. We have planned a leisurely, stress free trip that will have you visiting all the major sites with plenty of scheduled tours. In addition, we have added extra free days so you can do additional exploring on your own, or just take a day off. To keep the trip enjoyable for all, caravan provided meals will be catered; most travel days will be free; and we will not schedule events before noon on Sundays. We have decided not to schedule any potluck dinners. However, spontaneous potlucks would be fine. Each evening there will be a social hour which will be optional for you to attend. We will travel approximately 5400 miles, visit 26 campgrounds, and be together 81 days. Come join us and experience the splendor of Alaska !

Here is a list of the locations we will visit:

Great Falls, Montana	Chicken, Alaska
Ft. MacLeod, Air Base	Fairbanks, Alaska
Rocky Mountain House, Air Base	Denali National Park, Alaska
Whitcourt, Air Base	Anchorage, Alaska
Dawson Creek, British Columbia	Homer, Alaska
Ft. Nelson, British Columbia	Seward, Alaska
Liard River, British Columbia	Glacier View, Alaska
Watson Lake, Yukon Territory	Valdez, Alaska
White Horse, British Columbia	Tok, Alaska
Skagway, Alaska	Destruction Bay, Yukon Territory
Carmacks, Yukon Territory	Teslin, Yukon Territory
Dawson City, Yukon Territory	Iskut, Yukon Territory
Steward, British Columbia/Hyder, Alaska	Smithers, British Columbia

This caravan is being offered through Smartrving.net, a not-for-profit 501c(19) organization. It is open to active/retired military and to military veterans. Caravans are staffed by volunteers, therefore, they cost 40 to 50% less than for-profit companies. Non-members desiring to go on one of our caravans can be sponsored by a member. John & Fran would be more than happy to sponsor anyone who would like to join their caravan.

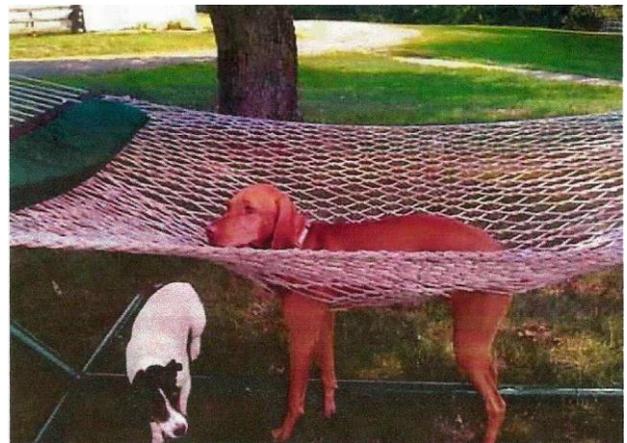
## ALFA TECH - II

By ED Burrows

The following ideas are based on articles from RV publications and personal experience. They are not meant to substitute for your good judgment, experience and safety.

1. **More tire stuff:** Know your tire lug nut torque pounds (i.e. 140 pounds). Our Freightliner tire torque is 500 pounds. When you change a tire or have anyone change a tire be sure that they/you tighten the lug nuts to the correct torque. Always tighten the nuts in a crisscross pattern. Also recheck the torque after you drive 50 to 100 miles. It is best to have a torque wrench. Michelin tires are guaranteed for five years against sidewall cracking. Michelin provides a gauge that you can rest against the tire to compare cracking that's covered by the warranty.
2. Costco sells Duracell 125 lumens motion activating LED lights (two pack for \$17 with batteries). They are designed for under counter use. They come on when you move by and will stay on as long as there is movement or for 30 seconds. We put one in the under bed storage area and one over the bathroom mirror. They would be great for a dark hall, cupboard or over an entry door to provide light when you come in at night. We also use a number of them under our counters at home.
3. **WARNING:** Microsoft no longer supports Windows XP. To encourage you to upgrade to Windows 7 or Windows 8 they are offering \$100 if you purchase a new computer. The concern, is when you move to Windows 7, Windows 8 or Windows 8.1 some of the programs that you like to use will no longer work and you will find that the software manufacturers no longer support those programs for the new versions of Windows (they want you to buy new software which does not work the same as the programs that you are familiar with). We found this to be true even going from Windows 8 to Windows 8.1. If you do go to Windows 8 you will find that Microsoft will continue to push you to move from Windows 8 to Windows 8.1.
4. To clean the haze off of your headlights wet 2000 grit sandpaper and work over the surface until the haze has been removed. Then wax with any auto wax to preserve the finish.
5. If you are in the South US during May or September and get love bugs on your RV, be sure that you remove them within the first 24 hours or the stain that's left can become permanent. Use any polish to remove them.
6. RV manufacturers put smoke alarms in the kitchen area. It's recommended that you put an additional alarm in your sleeping area. I recommend a smoke alarm that has a hush setting so that you can reduce the sensitivity of the alarm for 10 minutes. Move the current alarm to the sleeping area. **ONLY PURCHASE ALARMS WITH PHOTOELECTRIC TECHNOLOGY AND IONIZATION TECHNOLOGY.**

DRIVE SAFELY



**How to Cook Corn in the Microwave**  
I have tried it, only I cooked it for 8 minutes. Amazing !!



## Newcomers' Point of View

By Bob & Anita Gordon

We purchased our used '03 ALFA SeeYa one year ago last month and we had our share of issues for sure, but we were so excited to take our first real trip in October 2013. Thank goodness there were 4 ALFA owners at the RV Park we were staying at on the Oregon coast. They found *US* and so we were indoctrinated in the world of being ALFA owners, all the clubs and rallies, etc. We told them our problems, and the 4 gentlemen came and looked at ours, put their heads together, and told us to get ourselves to Alfateers! We did just that, and for a couple of frustrated ALFA newbies, we were thrilled with the referral and their work! While staying at Alfateers, we met other ALFA couples who were Roadrunners, had lots of laughs while getting the ALFA put back together, and knew we'd been hooked up with fun people! We even worked out a deal to buy one couple's tow vehicle!

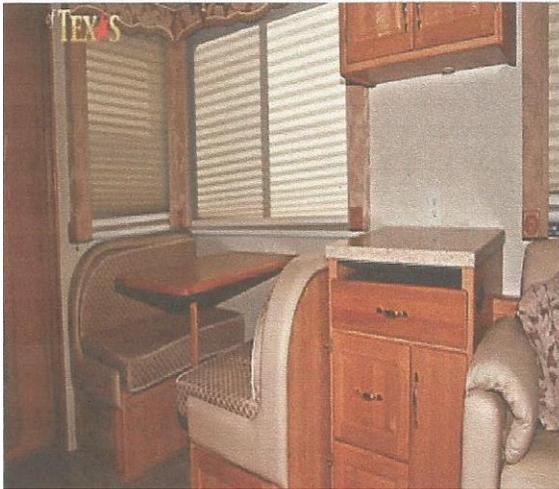
Our ALFA mentors in Oregon also told us all about the different clubs and the Annual Rally and how we just had to join one of the clubs and get ourselves to the Rally. So we joined Roadrunners and immediately booked our stay at Palm Creek in April.

We had to return to Alfateers in March of this year, and it worked out perfectly just before the Rally and we were so excited that it was also NASCAR weekend in Fontana, and the track was right across the street! We met more fun ALFA owners while we stayed at Alfateers, plus got the work done we needed, plus saw two amazing NASCAR races and spent time with more fun couples!

Then it was off to the Annual Rally. WE LOVED IT! We learned so much, attended many of the very beneficial classes - the Freightliner Class being *THE* most beneficial. We thoroughly enjoyed meeting so many more wonderful ALFA owners, enjoyed learning Pickle Ball and Lawn Bowling, "how" to microwave/convection cook better, and most definitely the 'Happy Hour' events every night! Palm Creek was wonderful and perfectly situated in Casa Grande for everything we possibly could've needed. Our Pre-Rally and Rally Wagon Masters were super and made sure as newbies, we were kept in the loop; plus, we were able to hook back up with all the different ALFA owners we had met prior to the Rally. We had sooooo much fun we decided to not only be Roadrunners, but also we joined the Sun Seekers and Mavericks groups and have three trips planned with the various clubs, and hope to join the Roadrunners in Quartzite, January 2015. We loved it all and looking forward to our next events.

As newcomers to the full-timers motorhome life, we were amazed how all the owners who had made modifications in their rigs were so willing to show off their changes. Once we left the Rally, we not only knew exactly "what" we wanted to change but "where" we could find what we needed to do it ourselves. Here are the pictures of before & after, thanks Dale!

BEFORE PICTURE:



AFTER PICTURE:



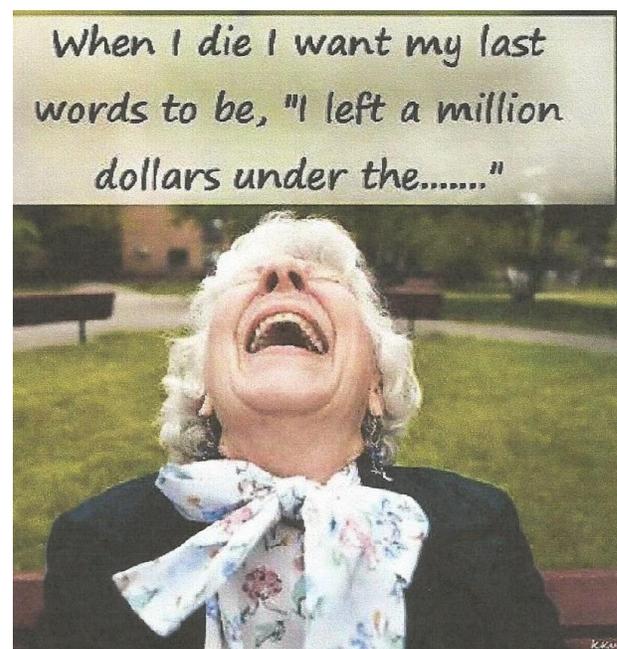
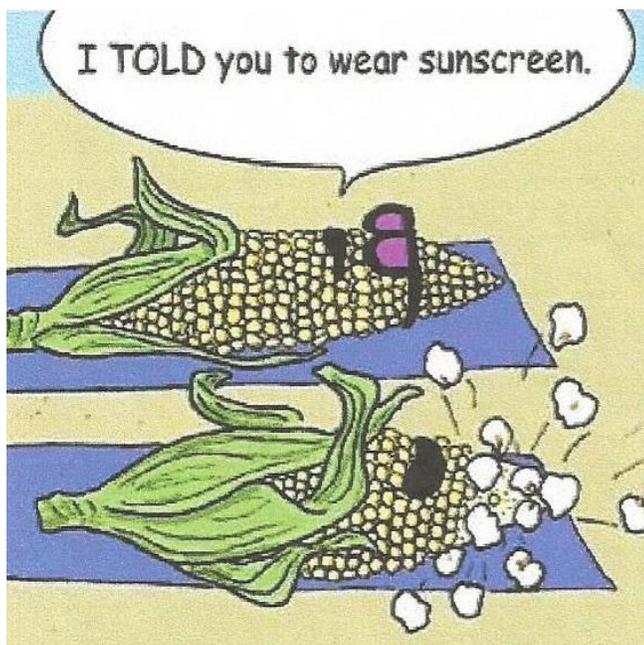
So thank you ALL for helping us to become involved in the wonderful world of being ALFA owners. We couldn't be happier and wish everyone happy travels.

Bob and Anita Gordon, Clearlake, CA

2003 ALFA SeeYa #70760

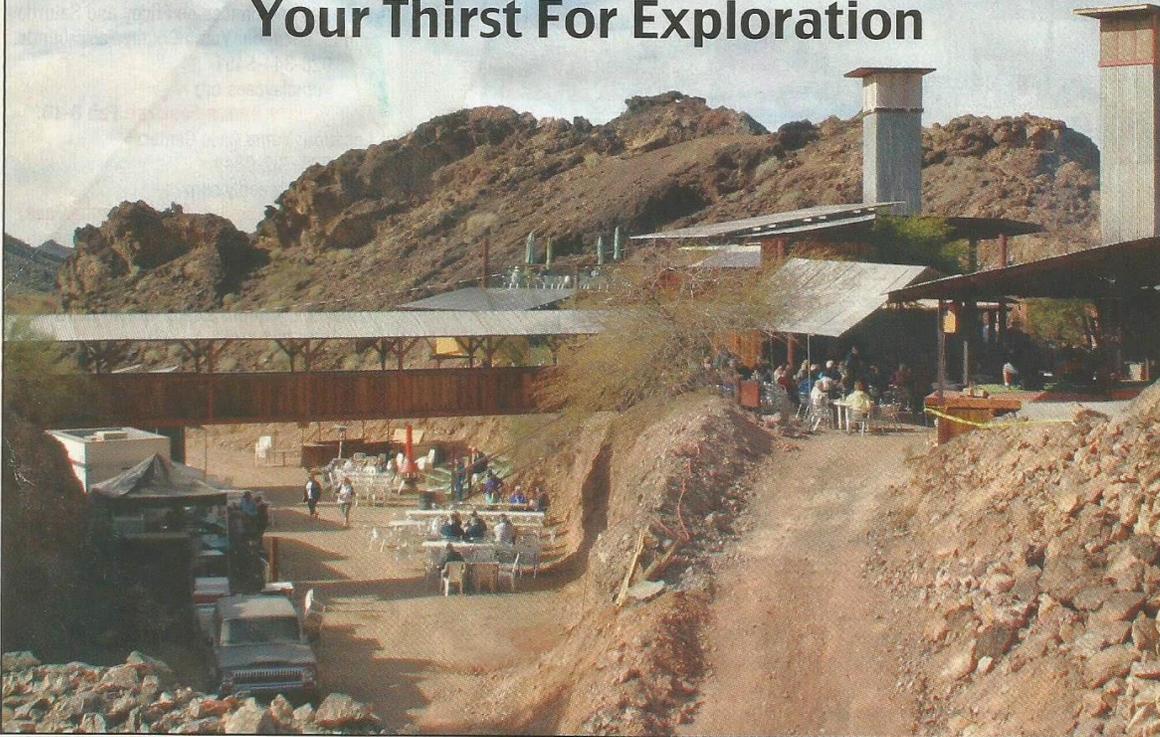
<http://retractableawnings.com/blog/categories/rv-blog.html>

This is a blog, not just about retractable awnings, but about many other things that RV'ers might be interested in. And the posts from people who have purchased their awnings sound really good. Just in case you need an awning.



## TRAILS AND TALES OF THE OLD WEST

## This Desert Watering Hole Quenches Your Thirst For Exploration



Story and photo by  
Donald J. Cook

A great number of today's active RV enthusiasts enjoy finding warm, scenic and accommodating destinations during their winter travels. But as a "winter visitor," I look for much more than a warm climate, Jacuzzi and clubhouse. The elements of exploration and adventure are what drive me.

Enter The Desert Bar. Located about five miles from Parker and 35 miles from Lake Havasu, The Desert Bar is not your average neighborhood sports bar. Looking at the stamped tin ceilings, the swinging bar stools and the brass of the saloon bar, one would think that he fell through a time portal during the dusty five-mile drive to get to this watering hole.

Nestled among the bare Buckskin Mountains and developed with a great deal of creativity, insight and hard work, the establishment runs full-tilt in the fall and winter

months to keep pace with its enthusiastic customers.

To reach this unique saloon, take the Cienega Springs Road exit off Arizona Highway 95 in Parker. The unpaved road has adequate signage, leading travelers to the site of the Nellie E. Saloon, also known as The Desert Bar. Virtually all passenger vehicles can access the road. Motorhomes and vehicles with trailers are not recommended.

Incredible as it may seem, on weekends during the winter months between noon and sunset, the normally lonely desert road can be congested with folks looking to have fun and experience the surreal setting of a full-scale oasis in the middle of an Arizona desert. Upon arrival, you understand why the place is open only on weekends. The logistics of moving goods and material back and forth surely must take the remaining five days of the week. This is not exactly a little kiosk selling food and drink along the side of an easily accessible road.

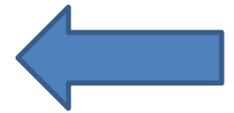
Interestingly, The Desert Bar is self-contained and operates on its own solar energy system. The establishment features several full service bars, food concessions,

patio areas, a gift shop and even a chapel to host weddings, private parties and special events. Additionally, there is a stage for live entertainment. The sprawling property can accommodate 100 visitors without feeling the least bit crowded. For those looking to explore the remote area, private helicopter operators land on site to offer tours of the surrounding Arizona outback.

Although the Nellie E. Saloon seems to be firmly rooted into the distant past—the name originates from the old mining claim, construction began in the early 1980s on a former mining site. The property was developed in stages, with components and vintage equipment acquired from various sources throughout the U.S. Construction was completed in 1988.

Even those folks who cannot get enough of Arizona's wonderful winter sunshine are sure to enjoy the scenic trek to The Desert Bar and have a one-of-a-kind experience. It's well worth the trip.

The Desert Bar is open between Labor Day and Memorial Day. Special events taking place throughout the year can be found on its website, [thedesertbar.com](http://thedesertbar.com). 



We know many people (including us) who have gone out to see this very interesting place. And don't think because you are not a drinker and don't like bars, that you would not be interested in seeing this place. It is very unique and well worth the trip.

Even the bathrooms are interesting. The place is always crowded on weekends. The biggest problem you might have is finding a place to park.

If you think things improve with age, attend a class reunion.

# Welcome to the 2015 'Alfa Owners' Club Annual Rally

Tom & Maureen Mathison - Rally Masters

Jerry & Jean Maddux, Wayne & Kathy Taubman, Marvin & Marian Greer - Assistants

## "See The USA In Your Alfa Today"

The Rally will again be in Casa Grande, AZ at Palm Creek Golf and RV Resort with Pre-Rallies starting Tuesday April 7<sup>th</sup> and the AOC rally starting on Saturday April 11<sup>th</sup> (6 nights). Easter Sunday is on April 5<sup>th</sup>, 2015 and if you choose to check in early, Palm Creek offers an Easter Dinner with all of the fixings for \$20 per person.

**Basic Registration Fee:** Covers two people per rig, includes two commemorative Rally patches, a welcome packet, three catered meals (including men's and ladies luncheon with entertainment), Alfateers BBQ, coffee and pastries every morning, ice cream social, pet parade, door prizes, Chapter gift basket drawings and raffle prizes. You will have access to Rally activities which include seminars, craft classes (there may be additional fees for materials), vendor talks and displays, morning walks, a coach walk thru, and a used book sale (please bring your used books to donate and "stock" up some new ones. All proceeds go to the Red Cross), and all the amenities that the Resort has to offer.

**Park Fees:** Site rent for 6 nights with full hook-up, (if you check in early - Palm Creek will try to put you in a suitable site for the full Rally NO GUARANTEES). **NOTE:** This rate will be good from April 1.

**Optional Fees:** "Dinner and Show"  
Full chicken dinner with quality entertainment for \$35 per person

Golf Tournaments - These are all listed on the registration form.

Additional people fee for each person over the two who are registered for the Rally.

Extra 2015 Rally Patches for those who would like additional Rally patches over the two that are included with your registration fee.

Non-Chapter Member - additional fee for attendees who are currently not members of one of the six Alfa Owners' Club Chapters. For those who join a Chapter before or during the Rally, will receive a refund.

The theme **"See The USA In Your Alfa Today"** is about traveling in your Alfa to see North America. We will have structured travel talks from other Alfa Owners who have recently been to Alaska, East Coast, Canadian Maritimes, Northwest and Rockies, West Coast, Mexico Baja and Mexico Mainland (Puerto Vallarta)

We will be looking for pictures (JPEG files) from attendees of their favorite spots with their Alfas and will be showing these during and after one of the dinners. We are planning a contest **"Where is that Alfa?"**

We will have a lot of new and exciting talks including:

RV Driving School. They will provide two seminars - **"Driving Your RV Safely"** and **"Women - You Can and Should Drive Your RV"**. They will also arrange for individual discounted lessons before, during and after the Rally and can be scheduled at [info@RV/drivingSchool.com](mailto:info@RV/drivingSchool.com). The number of lessons will be limited, so book early. These lessons offer "ride along" for the spouse and are highly rated by all who have taken them. Lessons are available for both motorhomes and trailers (5<sup>th</sup> wheels).

A **"Now That Our Coaches Are Getting Older"** talk about maintenance issues that are on a much longer time frame rather than the usual annual cycle. This includes items that, after 5 or 10 years, need to be carefully inspected. Items such as washer/dryer hoses & vent, engine hoses, awning attachment points, jack hydraulic oil condition, slide motor lubrication and a host of other things. As Jon from Alfateers says "In life there is one thing that will remain a constant...every day we get older and our RV's are no exception." Alfateers will provide a seminar discussing, what items need a checkup, issues they have seen recently that could impact most Alfas. You won't want to miss this !!!

**"You Will Get A Charge Out Of This"** talk about batteries, types, and how many is enough for our Alfas. Included with that will be a discussion on eliminating some of the complex electrical parts under the stairwell so the knife switch(es) can be used for what they were intended for - emergency operation only.

Cooking with the convection part of our microwave ovens.

A photo workshop for point & shoot and phone cameras. What most of us use daily.

**SmartWeigh**, a company that will weigh your coach at the end of the Rally for those who wish to purchase this service. We will keep you posted when registration will begin.

**"Smartweigh For Us"** will be a talk on nutrition on the road. How to have healthy snacks and meals while traveling. We often "outsmart ourselves" by shirking at the higher price of fruits and veggies but end up paying more for donuts. A bit of planning can make traveling tasteful and healthy.

**Camp Freightliner** *may* be coming back - we will keep you posted when registration will begin.

## AND A LOT MORE !!!!

This year we are offering an alternative registration method. Palm Creek has offered to collect the fees and allow us to use credit cards. If you want to use your credit card, you can fill in the form and mail it in with the credit card information or you may phone Palm Creek's Registration number **(520) 876-4400** and give them the information. Please make sure you have all of the details in the form ready to help make registration easier. You can also ask for an early check in, Easter Sunday dinner reservations and non-rally golfing times.

If using a credit card the Park Fee (site portion) of the fees will be subject to Palm Creek's standard cancellation policy:

[https://www.palmcreekgolf.com/download/document/414/PCK\\_RateSheet\\_2014\\_2015FINAL.pdf](https://www.palmcreekgolf.com/download/document/414/PCK_RateSheet_2014_2015FINAL.pdf)

Alfa Owners' Club Annual Rally is a Social Event hosted by the Alfa Owners Club.

**Attendees must stay at the resort in an Alfa RV.** Alfa Owners' Club **REFUND** policy: Rally Master shall refund money's to individuals requesting it, providing money's have not been disbursed.

There will be **NO** shortened stay or reduced fee on the **Rally Registration Form**.

So please come and join the activities and seminars and help keep the Alfa name mean what it stands for - **"A LOVING FAMILY AFFAIR"**. You can always tell our family apart as we are the good looking white, (we know a lot are now more colorful but just as good looking), best motorhomes and 5<sup>th</sup> wheel trailers out there.

We would encourage you to let other Alfa Owners know about the Rally as it is a great way to meet people with similar interests.

# 2015 Alfa Owners Club Annual Rally April 11 and depart on morning of April 17th

Palm Creek Golf and RV Resort,  
110 N. Henness Rd.  
Casa Grande, AZ 85122  
http://www.palmcreekgolf.com  
Phone: 800-421-7004  
info@palmcreekgolf.com

Rally Masters: Tom and Maureen Mathison ([tomaifa@hotmail.com](mailto:tomaifa@hotmail.com))  
Jean and Jerry Maddux ([alfarally2015@gmail.com](mailto:alfarally2015@gmail.com)) (541 942 4777)  
Wayne and Kathy Taubman ([kathytaubman@aol.com](mailto:kathytaubman@aol.com)) (309 269 0166)  
Marvin and Marian Grier ([margriersr@gmail.com](mailto:margriersr@gmail.com)) (719 339 3811)  
(Marvin arranges the golfing also)

Name: \_\_\_\_\_ Spouse Partner \_\_\_\_\_

Chapter Membership(s) (if a member) \_\_\_\_\_ Park with which chapter \_\_\_\_\_

First Timer \_\_\_\_\_ yes \_\_\_\_\_ no

Home Address \_\_\_\_\_

Type and Size of Alfa: 5<sup>th</sup> Wheel\_\_\_\_, Motorhome\_\_\_\_, Length of rig\_\_\_\_ feet

Phone \_\_\_\_\_ Contact number for Rally \_\_\_\_\_ Email address \_\_\_\_\_

Additional People Name(s) \_\_\_\_\_

Credit Card info (if using it): Type of Card \_\_\_\_\_ Card Number \_\_\_\_\_ Expiry Date \_\_\_\_\_

Registration fee	\$155
Park fee (6 nights at \$38)	\$228
Entertainment Night \$35 each x _____	\$ _____
*Non Chapter Fee at \$25 per rig	\$ _____
**Additional People at \$75 each	\$ _____
Extra Patches at \$5 each x _____	\$ _____
<b>Total Payable</b>	<b>\$ _____</b>

Please send a completed form and a check (or by credit card by providing the cards information) for the total amount due, payable to: **Palm Creek Golf and RV Resort - Attention B Wood**, at the address on this form. Please include **2015 Alfa Rally** in the memo line if paying by check. You can also use your credit card to pay by phone by contacting Palm Creek's Reservation Desk at: 800-421-7004 please have all information on this form ready.

You must register for the full 6 nights for the rally. The Alfa Owners Club Annual Rally is a Social Event hosted by the Alfa Owners Club. Attendees must be staying at the Resort in an Alfa RV. Registration fee refunds will be based on whether the monies have already been disbursed as determined by the Rally Masters. Park Fees cancellation is stated above.

Golfing Fees ( <u>can be paid by credit card later</u> )	Men's	Ladies
Number of players for 9 holes at PC walking	___ at \$14	___ at \$14
Number of players for 18 holes at PC walking	___ at \$19	___ at \$19
18 holes with cart at local course	___ at \$45	___ at \$45

**I would be interested in:** 1) Weather Station Mast \_\_\_\_\_ 2) Stained Glass class. \_\_\_\_\_  
(There is no commitment if you check any of these). 3) Mexican Train Tile (Dominos) holder \_\_\_ 4) Card Holder \_\_\_\_\_  
5) Genealogy \_\_\_\_\_ 6) Managing a Blog \_\_\_\_\_

**If there is enough interest in the above items, we will provide all or some.**

**NOTE: There may be extra fees for materials for these classes.**

**If using a credit card please advise if early check in and when and if Easter Sunday dinner is desired.**

**SIGNATURES REQUIRED FROM ALL PERSONS ATTENDING THE RALLY**

We agree that we will not hold the Alfa Owners' Club, its Chapters, nor any officer or agent, responsible for any personal or property injury of any kind, which we or any member of our family or guest(s) may suffer during the Rally. This agreement applies regardless of the cause of the injury, and includes, without limiting it, whether said injury is caused by a condition of the premises, another club member or any other person. We make this agreement in consideration of the expenses that the Alfa Owners' Club and its Chapters incur by holding the Rally for our benefit, and recognize that in signing this paper we are waiving a legal right to recover damages.

Signature \_\_\_\_\_ Date \_\_\_\_\_

Signature \_\_\_\_\_ Date \_\_\_\_\_

Please list any dietary restrictions and/or special needs below.

**\*Fee will be reimbursed by the Rally Master if you join an AOC Chapter before or during the Rally.**

**\*\* Please list names of extra people below (for purpose of name tags).**